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## Europe will advance 'at different speeds' — Mitterrand

MULHOUSE, France (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand closed a two-day Franco-German summit here Tuesday saying that a two-speed Europe was inevitable until all candidates joined under the same conditions. Mr. Mitterrand, speaking during a press conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, was responding to questions concerning a proposal made by French right-wing European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassourie. Mr. Mitterrand said that "Europe will advance at different speeds until the day when all (European states) will be in the Union on the same conditions." "It would be disastrous to get to the point of a Europe that is so enlarged that it ceases to exist," Mr. Mitterrand said. "There is no limit on the expansion of the European Union," he added. "It's a continent. But before getting there is much work to be done."

## Assad receives Al Tal

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Tuesday received Deputy Prime Minister and Higher Education Minister Saeed Al Tal for a two-hour meeting to review bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. Mr. Assad and Dr. Tal also discussed developments in the Arab region and the need for joint action to confront challenges facing the two countries. The meeting was attended by Syrian Minister of Higher Education Salha Sanjar and Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad Al Adaleh. In another development, Dr. Tal and the delegation accompanying him visited Tuesday evening Damascus University and toured several of its faculties. The tour included Al Assad University Hospital, the faculties of medicine and mechanical and electric engineering where Dr. Tal and the delegation members were briefed on the role of these facilities and the services they offer to the local community.

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## Artillery duels rock South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli and Muslim guerrilla fighters exchanged artillery and mortar fire in South Lebanon Tuesday. Security sources said. They said Israeli guns fired scores of 155-mm and 175-mm shells into hills of Iqlim Al Toufah ridge 40 km south of Beirut, from which Hizballah Party fighters attack Israeli forces occupying a border strip in the south. Hizballah guerrillas returned fire, shelling several 81-mm and 120-mm mortar bombs into and around the Israeli position of Snjoud on the edge of the zone.

## Arafat calls for emergency plan

JERICO (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has called on members of the Palestinian administration to run Jericho and Gaza to draw up a 100-day emergency plan, a member of the team said Tuesday. Saeb Erekat told AFP that Mr. Arafat had called upon each "minister" to draw up a separate plan for their own portfolio, as well as to move to the self-rule enclave of Jericho as soon as possible.

## King Fahd has gall stone removed

RIYADH (R) — Doctors have removed a stone from King Fahd's gall bladder with a surgical probe, Saudi Arabia announced. It said the king was in good health and left hospital Tuesday.

## Rafsanjani slams Riyadh

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani Tuesday slammed Saudi Arabia for pressuring its Gulf neighbours, in apparent reference to Riyadh's stand on three disputed islands. Mr. Rafsanjani told a group of university students that he sought cooperation with all Islamic countries including Saudi Arabia, but vowed Iran "would never give up its rights." Tehran Radio reported, "Saudi Arabia pressures and creates problems for its neighbours, including Iraq," he charged. "But such bullying from a bigger country is not acceptable to us."

## Key ally of Clinton indicted

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted a top congressional ally of U.S. President Bill Clinton on 17 charges of corruption in office Tuesday. The charges against Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, include mail fraud, tax fraud, tampering with a witness, concealing a material fact, embezzlement of public funds, and aiding and abetting a crime.

## Japan, Canada to discuss cooperation in Golan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan will send a mission to Canada to discuss cooperation in peacekeeping activities on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, officials said Tuesday. The dispatch of the six-member mission follows a United Nations request for Japan to study the possibility of helping Canadian peacekeepers in the Golan Heights, they said. Japan is to make a decision on whether it should send Self-Defense Force members to the Heights after consultations with Canada, government officials said. The mission is to leave Saturday for Canada and return home June 11. Currently, United Nations Disengagement Observer Forces comprising 464 people from Austria, 337 from Poland and 215 from Canada are engaged in peacekeeping activities on the Golan Heights.

## Algerian parliament elects speaker

ALGERS (AFP) — Algeria's new legislative assembly Tuesday chose its president Abdelkader Bensalah, the former spokesman of an official commission responsible for trying to end a bloody uprising by political means.

## Majali reiterates support for Palestinians, stresses need for coordination PNA team seeks Kingdom's help

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in various fields has become an urgent requirement that cannot be delayed further, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting with a visiting Palestinian delegation led by member of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) Elias Freij, Dr. Majali said Jordan will do all it can to support the PNA in its drive to achieve success, and will help the Palestinian people to become self-dependent and in handling their own affairs and building their own institutions. "The Palestinian people's success at this stage would create the required dynamism for the transition to the later and final stages when the Palestinian people regain their full legitimate rights on their national soil," added Dr. Majali, who stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian "brotherly relations are deeply rooted."



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (left) Tuesday meets with members of the Palestine National Authority (Petra photo)

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Information Minister Jawad Anani said that the Palestinian delegation, which groups housing minister Zakariya Al Agha, Communications and Post Minister Abdul Hafiz Al Ashab and Youth Minister Azmi Sheibi, requested to meet their Jordanian counterparts in order to

discuss full Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation in their respective fields, and to examine Jordanian legislations and rules that would help them carry out their mission in Palestine. The Palestinians have also requested to learn of Jordan's expertise in various domains to help the national Palestinian

authority, said Dr. Anani. Saying that the delegation has relayed a message to the government from the National Palestinian Council (PNC), Dr. Anani said that the team reaffirmed the Palestinian determination to maintain and strengthen further "the unique

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## Jordan urges halt to Yemeni war

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's stand in support of Yemen's unity, which, he said, was achieved through the free will of the people.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Yemen's Presidency Council member Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Dr. Majali said that Jordan continues to adopt a neutral stand with regard to the current situation in Yemen.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with Dr. Majali, Mr. Abdul Ghani said that he reviewed with the prime minister the latest developments in Yemen and his visit to the United Nations where he would attend Security Council deliberations concerning the Yemeni crisis.

"We are for dialogue and for diplomatic efforts to solve the Yemeni crisis and we are ready to stop the fighting once the

elements that triggered the conflict have declared their commitment to the legitimacy and cancelled their decision to secede," Mr. Abdul Ghani said.

Dr. Majali told the Yemeni official that the Kingdom will not interfere in Yemen's internal affairs and calls for an immediate halt to hostilities. Dr. Abdul Ghani said "we consider any discussion of the Yemeni issue in the interna-

tional forum as an interference in the country's internal affairs because the fighting in the country is an internal affair caused by a mutiny on the part of certain elements of the Yemeni Socialist Party."

Mr. Abdul Ghani, who arrived in Amman late Monday, later left for New York and was seen off at the airport by Minister of State Fawaz Abul Ghanam.

## U.N. criticises Israel for diverting Lebanon's water

By Jack Redden  
Reuters

AMMAN — A highly critical United Nations report accused Israel of diverting large volumes of water from areas of Lebanon it has occupied since 1978.

The report, which also said Israel had appropriated water from Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights, was released at the annual ministerial meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) that ended in Amman Tuesday.

"Lebanon is entitled to meet all its needs from its water before considering exporting the surplus to neighbouring countries," said the report by ESCWA, a U.N. body that groups Arab states from Egypt to the Gulf.

The report on Middle East water policy — a key item in Arab-Israeli peace talks — said Israel began taking Lebanese water from the time of its first invasion in 1978. It said the diversion centred on the Litani River and the smaller Wazzani River.

by means of pumps of a capacity of 150 million cubic metres per annum which were installed near the hardali Bridge," the U.N. report said.

"It is also making use of the water of the Wazzani River, whose annual discharge is 65 million cubic metres. In addition, after its invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Israel drilled an 18 kilometre tunnel which links the Litani to Israel."

The report said large areas of Lebanon are short of water for both irrigation and drinking, especially the south where the conflict with Israel and the Lebanese civil war halted development.

"Lebanon will need its water and it is only logical, before exporting the surplus, that it meets all its needs when it starts developing the southern part of the country," it said. Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978 to drive back Palestinian guerrillas from its northern border and left behind a surrogate Lebanese militia when it withdrew.

A larger invasion in 1982 drove the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from Lebanon. Israel withdrew in stages but since 1985 has occupied a "security zone" extending an average of 15 kilometres into Lebanon.

The report was equally critical of Israeli activity in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. It said Israel has systematically restricted Arab access to water in occupied areas, while diverting supplies to pre-1967 Israel and the new settlements.

It said the average Israeli received more than four times as much water as a Palestinian, with consumption by Jewish settlers even higher.

## NAM aims for a new U.N.

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is to submit a project to restructure the United Nations and make it more democratic, according to a draft resolution issued here Tuesday.

NAM heads of state will propose a restructuring plan to the United Nations at their next summit in September 1995, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

The draft resolution under discussion by NAM foreign ministers said the changes should be based on "the principles of democratisation ... in the United Nations and all its agencies."

"Ministers took the view that the United Nations should be restructured to take into account the significant changes that have taken place," it said.

"Membership of the Security Council should be expanded on democratic principles, with regard to the various proposals by developing countries for representation in the council."

NAM, meeting in Cairo until Friday, considers the United Nations the "chief vehicle" through which it can participate in the shaping of the new world order following the end of the cold war.

The organisation also aims to consolidate the position of developing countries and give them "more negotiating power vis-a-vis the developed industrial nations". Paraguay, Nicaragua and

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## Israel to bar Arafat from Jerusalem Undercover troops kill 2 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday he will not allow Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit Jerusalem in the next two years as Israeli undercover troops shot dead two Palestinians north of the holy city.

"For the moment, I can't see any reason for (Mr. Arafat) to come to Jerusalem," Israeli state radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling a closed door meeting of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee.

"But after two years I don't know what my position might be," the premier added. After two years of autonomy, Israel and the PLO are scheduled to begin negotiations on a permanent settlement, which is to include the question of Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin added that Mr. Arafat had still not officially told Israel when he intended to visit the autonomous enclave of Jericho.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials said two senior members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, died in a security service operation on the West Bank.

One was named as Yussef Najji Abu Hmeid, 24, who was believed to have lured a Shin Beth intelligence agent to his death a few miles to the north near Ramallah on Feb. 13. The Hamas armed wing Ezzedin Al Kassam claimed responsibility for the ambush which left two other agents wounded.

Mr. Najji, from the Ramallah refugee camp of Amari, was a former Shin Beth collaborator. The officials said he was armed and the troops thus

## U.N. debates fighting as Sanaa repeats warning North 'tightens noose' on Aden

SANAA (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council must recognise the unity of Yemen or the government will reject its peace efforts and fight on, a senior northern official warned Tuesday as the council met on the civil war.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdel Wahab Al Ansi said the Security Council "cannot stop the legitimate forces" from fighting for unity.

"Anything which does not recognise unity and the election results, or which does not halt interference from neighbouring countries, will be rejected," he told AFP, referring to last year's parliamentary elections.

In New York, the Security Council began debate Tuesday on efforts to bring about a ceasefire and resumption of negotiations.

Yemen also asked a conference of non-aligned foreign ministers in Cairo to treat the Yemeni war as an internal affair and to put pressure on any country that might try to intervene. Sanaa radio reported Tuesday.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni parliament and leader of one of the parties in the ruling coalition, put the request to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa in a letter on behalf of parliament, Sanaa Radio said.

"He asked the conference of non-aligned foreign ministers to treat what is happening in Yemen as an internal matter and to put pressure on non-aligned states which try to have a hand in what is happening not to interfere," it said.

But Gulf Arab states have ignored Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and voiced support for a U.N. initiative to halt the north-south civil war in Yemen.

The only ceasefire terms the

north has so far offered to its southern rivals, led by Ali Salem Al Beidh who declared the independent Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR) on May 21, is to surrender and merge forces.

Mr. Saleh argues he is faced with a "southern rebellion" that he has to quash by military means. But with the Security Council meeting going ahead regardless, he sent two envoys to New York on Monday.

Gulf countries, increasingly concerned by the conflict now in its fourth week, have stepped up efforts for an unconditional ceasefire to bring the two sides to the negotiating table.

Yemen's closest neighbours, Oman and Saudi Arabia, have spearheaded appeals to the Security Council, with an initiative largely backed by other Arab countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt.

Qatar also urged the United Nations to hold a special session on the war.

The moves have been welcomed by the South and its appointed premier Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas has said a Security Council resolution "will be binding on all parties and we are ready to stick to it."

Northern officials charge that Saudi Arabia helped stir up trouble because it does not want to live alongside a strong state of 14 million people that has committed itself to democracy and won plaudits from the West.

But southern leaders have argued that unity was a failure, as shown by the war. Gulf Arab states, unhappy with Sanaa backing for Baghdad during the 1991 appear to be swinging in favour of the argument.

"Let's end this manufactured unity," the Kuwaiti daily

Al Qabas said, calling on the Arab World to recognise the YDR and "refuse to maintain (Yemen's unity) by arms."

Since the beginning of the war Kuwait has only received southern leaders.

Yet to date none of the Gulf countries has gone as far as to openly recognise the break-away state. Only the United Arab Emirates has come close, referring to Mr. Beidh as president.

Meanwhile, a government minister in the northern Yemeni capital Sanaa said Tuesday that northern troops consolidated their control of land approaches to the port of Aden, stronghold of their southern enemies.

"On Monday evening the link around Aden was completed by the capture of Tour Al Baha governorate in Lahj Province, which is now under the control of the forces of legitimacy," Abdul Qader Bagammal, a newly appointed deputy prime minister, told a news conference.

Southern troops told Reuters correspondent Ashraf Fouad Tuesday that northern forces northwest of Aden thrust 100 km along a flat desert road to within 40 km of the city's outskirts before being rolled back at least 20 km.

The northerners already held an incomplete arc around Aden, with their front lines about 35 km northeast of Aden's commercial centre, near the town of Zingibar, and 43 km north of its outskirts in the Al Anad area.

But southern warships control the sea, and an attack along the coast from the West was repulsed by southern troops last week.

Aden was now "completely within the range of the north-

(Continued on page 5)

## Destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons nearly over

MANAMA (Agencies) — A U.N. chemical team headed for Baghdad Tuesday to collect data from a key plant used to destroy poisonous Iraqi gases, as the United Nations prepared to wind down its chemical destruction operations in Iraq.

Three years after the Gulf war ended, the United Nations says Iraq has now been stripped of its poisonous gases. Roald Opsahl, U.N. spokesman in Bahrain, said the 14-member team, led by Richard Scilleux, would take air and soil samples at the main chemical destruction site of Muthana, 130 km from Baghdad.

"This (data) will be incorporated into the final hand-over documentation of Muthana by the close-down team," Mr. Opsahl said, adding the team

which would shut down the site would travel to Baghdad in the next two weeks.

Mr. Opsahl said the data from the Iraqi site would also be used in preparation for a long-term monitoring and verification programme, a prerequisite to the lifting of U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad in 1990 for invading Kuwait.

U.N. biological weapons and ballistic missile inspection teams are also in Baghdad to prepare the technical baseline from which to measure any activity that might suggest Iraq is violating a U.N. ban on weapons of mass destruction.

In Baghdad, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein predicted that the sanctions, which have stifled his country's economy and brought poverty to the 18

## Rabin says Washington 'exhausted' by Israel, Syria

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Tuesday was quoted as saying that Syria was apparently not ready, to make peace and Washington was exhausted trying to bridge the gap.

An official briefing reporters quoted Mr. Rabin as telling a closed-door parliamentary committee that he backed an Israeli withdrawal in stages from land on the Golan Heights captured in 1967.

"The Syrians apparently are not seriously ready for peace," the official said Mr. Rabin told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

A government-run Syrian newspaper, meanwhile, Tuesday maintained that Israel's real objective in the Middle East peace process was financial, with the Jewish state seeking further Western support and investments.

"Israel is trying to introduce itself as an economic base for the West in the Middle East

capable of infiltrating an Arab economy and protecting Western investments in the region," the daily Tishrin said in an editorial.

It maintained that the only interpretation for Israel's insistence on making multilateral talks a success was so the talks, going on parallel to the bilateral peace effort, "will open Arab doors before Israel and enable it to control Arab wealth."

"Israel is still striving to acquire everything from the Arabs and the West without submitting anything in return," it concluded.

Mr. Rabin said Israel would like U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to keep trying to restart stalled talks with Syria.

"We have an interest in Christopher coming to the region every so often but I believe that Washington has exhausted itself," Mr. Rabin

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## Northern Yemenis shrug off southern shelling

ON THE ADEN PLAIN, Yemen (R) — Southern Yemen shelled northern troops on the sandy plain northeast of the southern capital Aden Monday but the northerners shrugged it off and said the shells were not doing any damage.

The northerners, besieging Aden on the eastern front from a distance of about 30 kilometres, fired salvoes of Katyusha rockets towards the outskirts of the city.

Neither side seemed to have made any significant advances since soon after the Yemeni civil war erupted on May 4, according to journalists on their second visit to Abyan province.

But Captain Abdul Rahman Al Rubai, a staff officer with the northern Amal Brigade headquartered in the nearby town of Zinjibar, said Aden Airport was now within range of the north's 130 mm Howitzers, which he said fired shells 27 kilometres.

One of the main short-term objectives of military commanders in the northern capital Sanaa is to stop the superior air force of the breakaway southern state from using Aden airport for combat missions against northern troops on the Aden front.

Capt. Rubai said MiG-21s and Sukhoi fighter-bombers were still flying in from Rayyan in the far east of Yemen, refuelling at Aden as quickly as possible and then attacking the northerners before flying back to base.

"They are flying a few missions a day out of Aden, even though we are hammering it," he said.

One southern warplane flew over the Abyan front late

Monday afternoon, drawing some anti-aircraft fire.

The southern shelling was steady throughout the afternoon and some shells landed within a few hundred metres of a row of nine T-55 tanks which soldiers described as their third line of defence on this stretch of the front.

The tanks, part of the north's 56th Armoured Brigade, were about 20 kilometres southwest of the town of Jaar, which would put them 35 kilometres northeast of Crater, the commercial centre of Aden city. Northern infantrymen were visible further forward.

Capt. Rubai said northern artillery had not responded to the southern shelling Monday. "If their barrage is ineffective, we don't bother," he said. "They are only trying to make us reveal our artillery positions by firing back."

The tank crew made light of the bombardment and showed no sign of concern that they might be the target.

"It's random and they never hit anything," said Second Lieutenant Faisal Shami, manning the machinegun in the turret of one of the tanks.

Lt. Shami said his tank had been in the same place for days and was ready to advance on Aden as soon as the order came.

"There are just small groups of them (southerners) left and they are paralysed. We could go right into Aden but it's a political decision," he said.

The government in Sanaa says it will not storm Aden now because it is trying to reach a political settlement through contacts with what it calls moderates in the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), the dominant

party in the secessionist government.

Leading politicians in Aden deny such contacts exist.

Lieutenant Waleed Al Haderi, a political officer from Sanaa, said a southern unit, covered by naval bombardment, tried to outflank 56th Brigade positions Saturday and Sunday but ran into a rear unit of the brigade.

The northerners beat them back and took 13 prisoners, "including some schoolboys pulled in off the streets," he said.

Capt. Rubai said the southern navy, one of the south's advantages over the north at the start of the war, had been out of the picture since the northerners sank its last gunboat Saturday. He did not name the vessel or say where it sank.

In the town of Zinjibar, the governor recently appointed by Sanaa said life was slowly returning to normal despite the problem of having to bring in fuel, food and other supplies from northern Yemen instead of Aden, the province's traditional source.

Fuel, for example, has to be transported more than 300 kilometres from a refinery in the northeastern town of Marib, some of the way along winding mountain roads.

Zinjibar is more lively than other towns in southern areas held by the northern army, apparently because the local people have a long history of conflict with the YSP.

"Nobody has left. In fact we even have about 15,000 Somali refugees in the province," said the governor, Ali Sheikh Omar.



PALESTINIAN CONTRACTORS: Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat holding the hand of Mounther Ahmad Al Mutlak, Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia, acknowledges applause before addressing Arab and Palestinian contractors. At right is Marwan Abdul Hamid, general secretary of the Palestinian Contractors Association (AFP photo)

ledges applause before addressing Arab and Palestinian contractors. At right is Marwan Abdul Hamid, general secretary of the Palestinian Contractors Association (AFP photo)

## Israel warned over prisoner release clause

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A military tribunal judge has warned that Israel's demand that Palestinian prisoners pledge support for autonomy before being released is "deliberately anti-democratic".

Judge Shlomo Isaacson gave the ruling in the case of Walid Al Rol, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who refused to sign part of the pledge and remained in jail.

About 700 men due for early release have refused to sign and remain in jail.

Mr. Rol, who has spent nearly a year in jail, was one of hundreds of Palestinians set for

release by Israel following the May 4 Cairo agreement to launch PLO autonomy.

He pledged "to abstain from all acts of terrorism and violence" — the first part of the release clause — but refused to support the Sept. 13 Declaration of Principles for autonomy.

Israeli civil rights lawyer Tamar Peleg took up the case.

"The second clause is totally illogical," Judge Isaacson found in his May 24 verdict, which was disclosed Tuesday.

"One cannot ask an individual to give political backing to an idea. It is a deliberately anti-democratic act. However it is

legitimate to ask a detainee not to commit acts of violence."

Nonetheless the judge prolonged his detention for another five weeks stating Mr. Rol would "work to build a structure which opposes the peace process by violent activities."

Israel set free another 78 Palestinian prisoners Monday after a three week lull in the releases.

A total of 1,579 Palestinians were released on May 4 and 5, but Israel then halted the process without any explanation.

Under the Cairo accord, Israel has until June 8 to release 5,000 prisoners.

## EU backs anti-violence dialogue in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — European Union ministers making a flying visit to Algeria Monday urged the country to find a political solution to its violent divisions and backed government efforts at economic reform.

The "troika" — Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes and the Greek and German deputy foreign ministers, Georges Papandreu and Dieter Kastrup — were due to leave Monday evening after talks with prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and key economic ministers on possible new credits.

In a press conference Mr. Papandreu, whose country currently heads the European Union's revolving presidency, supported the Algerian government's controversial to introduce a market economy and launch a dialogue with the

opposition.

He said the EU backed "the government's efforts to hold a dialogue with all groups that respect democracy and reject violence. We believe a solution can only be found through dialogue and are happy to confirm that its efforts are sincere, as shown during our discussions."

Conflict between Muslim militant guerrillas and the security forces has claimed more than 3,000 lives since January 1992, when authorities cancelled the second round of a general election that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Mr. Papandreu confirmed that the EU had released a second credit tranche of 150 million ECUs (\$175 million), linked to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) structural readjustment agreement.

Algers, grappling with an estimated \$26 billion foreign debt, signed the accord early last month and devalued its currency by nearly 50 per cent to qualify for the billion-dollar loan.

An addition 200 million ECU credit will be discussed by the EU's executive European Commission, said Mr. Papandreu, describing recent steps as "an important framework confirming the government's will to pursue economic reforms."

Finance Minister Ahmad Benbitour, who took part in Monday's discussions, was due to visit Paris Tuesday to ask the Paris Club of creditor nations to reschedule the country's debt, officials said.

He told national television late Sunday he hoped to conclude two agreements for 1994 and 1995.

## Yemen appeals for international aid

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen has appealed for urgent international aid to help victims of a four-week-old civil war between northern and southern forces, the United Nations representative announced here.

Ouni Al Hani said the sought-after assistance, including tents for an estimated 100,000 persons who have been displaced by the fighting along with medicine and food, would be made available to "all areas of Yemen."

The government has also appealed for help in rebuilding public facilities damaged by the fighting, which erupted on May 5 after authorities from northern and southern Yemen

failed to agree on the administration of the country.

North Yemen, a conservative Arab state, merged with Marxist South Yemen in May 1990, although their armed forces remained separate.

No official toll in human and material losses has been issued in either north or south Yemen, but the Arab League has estimated that the fighting has left more than 50,000 people dead and done more than \$10 billion worth of damage.

But a spokesman in the Yemeni capital Sanaa described the figure of 50,000 dead as "very exaggerated."

In another development, the speaker of the Yemeni parlia-

ment, Sheikh Abdullah Ibn Hussein Al Ahmar, urged members of the Non-Aligned Movement not to recognise the new Democratic Republic of Yemen that has been proclaimed in the south of the country.

The appeal was sent to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa one day ahead of a meeting in Cairo of Non-Aligned foreign ministers.

Sheikh Al Ahmar, according to the Yemeni News Agency (SABA), argued that such recognition would amount to "interference in the internal affairs of Yemen and would lead to an escalation in the conflict."

## As frustration grows over delays in Gaza, Arafat blamed

By Neil MacFarquhar  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The sick, the unemployed and farmers desperate to market their crops besiege the gates of the Palestinian National Authority daily, seeking — but not finding — permits to leave Gaza.

All 13 post offices are shut. The 34 tax employees cannot find out their office telephone numbers, and no one knows who will meet the police payroll.

Publicly, Palestinian officials blame 27 years of Israeli occupation for the mess. But privately they echo complaints heard from people in the street that PLO leader Yasser Arafat is idling in his Tunis headquarters without delegating the authority needed by local government.

The danger is both a collapsed economy and public unrest that the fledgling police are not equipped to handle.

"Why is it taking Arafat all this time to name a council and take over? They should have been here the day the Israelis withdrew," said Prof. Ziad Abu Amr, a political science professor at Bir Zeit University and Gaza native. "We have a political vacuum."

Palestinians say the vacuum stems in large part from Mr. Arafat's longstanding management methods, keeping tight personal control of all money and creating confusion by manipulating competing PLO subgroups so no alternate power centres develop.

The system, in which personal loyalty counted more than professional skills, kept the heated elements of a liberation movement in check. But it is proving a disaster for making the daily decisions for nearly 800,000 people in the autonomy areas of the Gaza Strip and West Bank region of Jericho.

Gridlock is everywhere.

There are no forms for birth or death certificates, so none have been issued since the Israeli military government handed authority to the PLO on May 18.

No one got around to printing Palestinian postage stamps, so the post offices shut. Farmers can't get permits to truck their goods to Jordan.

There was a sense among Mr. Arafat and his aides that all they needed to do was take over and everything would keep working, one official noted, with public happiness over the Israeli troop withdrawal smoothing rough patches.

Nowhere is the mess more critical than in financial affairs. Although Western and Arab donors have pledged \$2.4 billion over the next five years to help the Palestinians stand on their feet, Palestinian coffers are empty.

The main distribution mechanism is the Palestinian

Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), but PLO officials and diplomats suggest Arafat is hampering its efforts out of fear that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza will consolidate power before he arrives.

Mr. Arafat sowed confusion by setting up a mirror organisation in Tunis with a vague mandate that includes allocating funds.

Attempts by PECDAR to get \$40 million in emergency funding from the World Bank in early May came to nothing because Mr. Arafat refused until May 14 to sign the papers allowing PECDAR to negotiate contracts, said the officials, who demanded anonymity.

The delay in signing the contract had a domino effect forcing postponement of the first meeting with the donors, which had been scheduled for May 31 in Paris.

Palestinian officials said they hope things will start

moving this week, with the first request put to the World Bank for \$6.5 million in salaries for over 6,000 employees in Gaza and Jericho.

"Up until now I can't say there is a real administration," said Rashid Abu Shbak, a top Palestinian security official.

"But we are taking over after 27 years without any such experience. There are bound to be plenty of problems. We can't learn it all in one or two weeks."

Palestinian officials blame Israel for many problems. For example, liaison official Freij Al Kheiri said lengthy security screening has meant only 10 per cent of 2,000 requests to enter Israel have been granted.

Faisal Hussein, a top PLO official in occupied Jerusalem, accused Israel of withholding millions of dollars in taxes deducted from the wages of Palestinian workers. Israel is believed holding the money as collateral in case

massive water and electricity bills don't get paid.

Taxes, which are supposed to cover operating expenses including police salaries, are not being collected in the autonomy areas. Top tax official Ayid Akram Al Sherif sits in an office devoid of computers and most records.

Mr. Sherif said in 1993 Israel collected 73 million shekels (over \$26 million) in Gaza from customs, income tax from day labourers in Israel, factories and vehicle licenses.

But basic decisions like whether to rehire the Israeli firm that tracked labour records inside Israel have not been made, Mr. Sherif said.

"The authority here cannot make the decisions without Tunis," said Mr. Sherif. "The employees with experience could make it work... But it looks like we will have to wait until Yasser Arafat arrives in Jericho and takes the oath of office."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqi ministers ordered to respect office hours

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has instructed his ministers to show up for work at eight in the morning, warning that legitimate illness is the only excuse for staying away from the job. President Saddam issued the directive as he chaired the first session of his new cabinet Monday, the Iraqi News Agency reported in a dispatch received here. The president Sunday sacked his prime minister, Ahmad Al Khodair, and took over the job himself in what analysts said was a bid to impose tighter control on the struggling national economy. "This is the first measure that must be applied," President Saddam decreed. "From now on, every one of you should be at your ministry at eight in the morning. Only those who are sick will be authorised to contact the cabinet secretary to inform him of the problem. That will enable us to know that someone is sick, to inquire after his condition and to wish him a speedy recovery. But all those who are not sick should be present at eight o'clock. I don't want any other excuses. Those who pretend to have slept late have no excuse. Instead of going to bed at two in the morning, they should retire at one. If they don't get to bed before two, even though they have to get up at five or six, they will have to learn to go to bed earlier." Iraq has been reeling from the effects of a United Nations economic embargo that was imposed following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

### Arabs, Jews target common foe

TEL AVIV (R) — Arabs and Jews of the occupied West Bank launched a rare united campaign Tuesday, hoping to take the sting out of life. Settler Rabbi Menachem Furman, who meets frequently with local Muslim figures, said Jews from Atmie settlement and Arabs from neighbouring villages would demonstrate to demand Israeli authorities spray against a rash of mosquitoes. "This is an awful phenomenon of mosquitoes that obviously harms Jews and Arabs like," he told Israel Radio. "It's a real concern that prompts Jews and Arabs to act together," he said.

### Russian envoy: Syria wants peace

TEL AVIV (R) — A top Russian envoy on a Middle East tour said in remarks broadcast Tuesday that he believed Syria wanted peace with Israel. After holding talks in Syria and Israel, Victor Posvalyuk told Israel Radio: "The Syrian people and the Syrian leadership are interested in achieving peace with Israel." Russia and the United States are co-sponsors of Israel's two-and-a-half-year-old peace talks with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday it was only a matter of time before Israel and Syria made peace. The sides are deadlocked with Damascus demanding Israel fully withdraw from the Golan Heights captured in 1967 and Israel insisting Syria commit to "full peace" with open borders, trade and embassies.

### Iranian foreign minister visits Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here for a Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conference, becoming the most senior official from Iran to visit Egypt since 1979. Mr. Velayati declined to comment to reporters on his arrival in Cairo, on the eve of the four-day meeting of NAM foreign ministers. "Next time," he said. The foreign minister is the highest-ranking Iranian official to visit since the two countries broke off relations in 1979 after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel and granted asylum to Iran's deposed shah. In Tehran, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said last week that Mr. Velayati would not meet any Egyptian officials and his visit to Cairo was solely for the NAM conference. According to an Egyptian diplomatic source, Iran could be a candidate to take over the chairmanship of NAM when Indonesia's term runs out in September 1995.

### S. Arabia to probe haj stampede

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has said the kingdom is to investigate a stampede in which hundreds of pilgrims died last week during a haj ritual symbolising stoning the devil. The Saudi Press Agency said King Fahd told the Saudi cabinet: "We have reviewed all the security and administrative reports pertaining to the intense crowding during the hurling of the stones... which led to some deaths..." "We have directed to form special committees to study what happened, explain the reasons that led to it and find solutions and suggestions so as such crowding does not happen again," the agency quoted the king as saying. Saudi Arabia said Thursday that 270 pilgrims were killed in the stampede last Monday near the holy city of Mecca when hundreds of thousands of people crowded at an enclosure to hurl stones at three piles of rocks symbolising the devil. Saudi Arabia blamed the pilgrims and said their rush to throw stones and the crowding was impossible to control despite the efforts of policemen and warnings via loudspeakers. It said the stampede took place despite the fact that the kingdom had spent billions of dollars on bridges and highways and on expanding holy places to relieve congestion during the annual haj, which it said 1.5 million Muslims joined this year.

### U.K. junior minister arrives in Qatar

DUBAI (R) — British Junior Foreign Minister Douglas Hogg arrived in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar at the start of a tour of the region. The official Qatar News Agency reported Mr. Hogg's arrival but gave no other details. The Foreign Office in London had said that Mr. Hogg, minister of state with responsibility for the Middle East, would visit the Gulf states of Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:00 ..... N.B.A. sport  
18:30 ..... News in French  
18:45 ..... Le Journal De L'histoire  
19:00 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Too Close for Comfort  
21:00 ..... The Best of Magic  
21:10 ..... The World of The Thirties  
21:30 ..... News in English  
22:00 ..... Folklore

### PRAYER TIMES

03:53 ..... Fajr  
05:30 ..... (Sunrise) Doha  
12:53 ..... Dhuhr  
16:14 ..... Asr  
21:13 ..... Maghreb  
21:13 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweif, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Torreaneta Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

### Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 62843.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625266.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Temperatures will continue to drop slightly with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 17/29  
Aqaba 23/36  
Desalination 15/33  
Jordan Valley 21/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings:

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Amman 24 per cent. Aqaba 36 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa ..... 819220  
Dr. Jamil Mansour ..... 776149  
Dr. Shihawi Abu Zayud ..... 737962  
Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi ..... 819213  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fardous pharmacy ..... 783336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637155  
Nasroukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salami pharmacy ..... 630730  
Yasoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmoum pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Al Shogari ..... 246140  
Al Oudh pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein ..... 963000  
Khalil pharmacy ..... 965417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 642442  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Traffic Police ..... 192, 621111, 627777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 845402  
Police ..... 662277  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605881  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information ..... 787111  
(Directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Club ..... 110230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 610230  
Repairs ..... 621101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 689101  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
Company ..... 18-5338  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53381  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 06-53381

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642416  
Akidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642662  
Mathus, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664174  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 662277  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666177/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664166  
Islamic, Al-Musharraf ..... 771115  
Al-Bashir, J. Abdrafiah ..... 7751126  
Army, S.Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 622409/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... 019983323  
Zarga Maternity Hospital ..... 019983340  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 019986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 019986732

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
16:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:35 ..... London (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
19:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
19:20 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Aqaba, Rome (RJ)  
01:20 ..... Rome (RJ)  
01:50 ..... Beirut (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:10 ..... Damascus (AZ)  
11:25 ..... Larnaca (CY)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
10:30 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Casa Blanca, Tunis (RJ)  
12:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
21:10 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
09:15 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:25 ..... Rome (AZ)  
12:15 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
13:00 ..... Jeddah (SU)  
14:00 ..... Cairo (GF)  
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)  
16:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)  
17:20 ..... Algiers, Shanghai (AA)  
22:30 ..... Dubai (EM)

### 00:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

#### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.



## Draft insurance law will encourage registration of new firms — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The draft insurance law endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament on May 18 would open the door for the registration of new insurance companies provided they meet technical and financial requirements of the industry, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

In remarks to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, about the draft law and the insurance sector in Jordan, the minister said the draft law contains an amendment that would encourage new companies to operate, and the existing 17 companies to promote their services. No new insurance companies were permitted to open for business in Jordan in the past 10 years and during that period no major development in the work of the existing companies took place, said Dr. Khalaf.

Under the old system, she said, the insurance companies operating in Jordan provided limited services that did not meet the needs of the growing Jordanian market. These companies offered primarily vehicle insurance, which accounted for 45 per cent of the total volume of their business, the minister added.

To date, most of the existing insurance companies have not provided services to other sectors such as engineering, agriculture and health, and it is time for them to promote their services, Dr. Khalaf said.

On the other hand, she said, the relatively small insurance business so far prompted many of the companies to rely on re-insurance, which is enlisting the support of non-Jordanian companies in the insurance business.

In addition, the minister said, insurance companies also lack appropriate systems to train personnel.

The Lower House of Parliament endorsed the draft insurance law after amending Article 56 of the existing law, paving the way for the creation of more insurance companies in the Kingdom.

According to Dr. Khalaf, the amendment stipulates that insurance companies, unlike under the old law, are obliged to issue liability insurance policies for any vehicle, because vehicle owners are required to have liability insurance in order to renew the vehicle licenses.

The government, she said, had no choice but to make liability insurance service compulsory.

Rajai Sweiss, director general of the Middle East Insurance Company, said increasing the number of insurance companies would weaken each and every one of the existing companies because the Jordanian insurance market is relatively small. He said he did not expect the market to grow to an extent that would justify the licensing of new companies.

Mr. Sweiss added that it would have been a better policy for the government to encourage the existing insurance firms to merge and form major concerns capable of meeting the public's needs for insurance services and also capable of providing the necessary training for new personnel.

According to Mr. Sweiss, the total shareholders' equity in the existing insurance companies combined stood at JD35 million by the end of 1992, rising from a total capital of JD24 million 10 years earlier.

The meagre rise in the volume of capital and equity, he said, is attributable to the small profit earned, most of which is distributed as dividends to shareholders without retaining substantial amounts for expansion.

## 150 ESCWA staff face unemployment

### Vote to move headquarters to Beirut meets with dismay

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 17th ministerial session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) concluded Tuesday, leaving in its wake more than 150 Jordanians facing unemployment in light of the vote taken during Monday's session to move ESCWA headquarters from Amman to Beirut.

"It feels really bad to be evacuated after proving that you are excellent at your job," a young Jordanian woman working with ESCWA told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Jordanian employees at ESCWA's headquarters expressed dismay at the decision.

"I feel betrayed by this politically motivated decision," said the woman, who preferred anonymity. She added that Jordan, however, can not justify its loss because no effort was exerted by the government to promote the continued host-

ing of ESCWA headquarters in the Kingdom.

"The government should have used the media to promote Jordan's readiness in terms of the excellent infrastructure and facilities to host the commission's headquarters, and it should have had a stronger representation in the session," she added, referring to the "unsatisfactory lobbying efforts" of the Jordanian delegation concerning the matter of the commission's headquarters.

Stressing that Jordan offered the best services for continuing to host the commission's headquarters, an ESCWA officer, who also asked not to be named, told the Jordan Times that the decision to relocate was simply an extension of the continuing attitude adopted by many Arab countries against Jordan since the Gulf crisis.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that only Palestine, Jordan and Yemen voted in favour of maintaining

the headquarters in Amman, while votes in favour of the move to Lebanon were cast by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt and Lebanon.

A Jordanian driver at ESCWA told the Jordan Times that any compensation he might receive will not be enough to support his family until he finds another job.

Moreover, the fate of local ESCWA employees has not yet been determined in terms of when the move to Beirut will be made, whether or not their (the employees') annual contracts will be renewed for another year, and if severance compensation will be given to ESCWA's local staff.

ESCWA Chief Administrator John Truman told the Jordan Times that local ESCWA staff will lose their jobs after the move is made because Lebanese staff will be recruited for the commission's new

headquarters. But, he said, a suitable timetable on the details of the move will not be issued before one year.

Mr. Truman added that the U.N. is interested in the fate of Jordanian ESCWA staff, and that the organisation will do "the best it can to help them," adding that a definite plan on the nature of assistance to the employees has not yet been set.

According to the ESCWA officer who preferred anonymity, the move will not only inflict economic losses on Jordan, but ESCWA's performance will be negatively affected by the transfer.

"The Lebanese are not as well-equipped as we are to host ESCWA's headquarters, and the security element in Beirut is another downfall for the headquarters," said the officer.

Delegates to the 17th ministerial session adopted the

draft report of the session after three days' work. The primary draft resolution adopted by the commission, which must now be approved by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), concerns relocating ESCWA's headquarters, the costs of which will amount to \$4,457,400 according to the report.

The two other draft resolutions adopted by the commission are: the frequency of sessions of the commission and the technical committee; the establishment of a committee on social development within ESCWA; the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997; the proposed outline of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1994-1995; and the U.N. conference on human settlements.

The 18th ESCWA ministerial session will be held in Beirut in 1995.

## British labour party demands return of occupied lands to Arabs — visiting team

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British Labour Party has demanded that all occupied Arab territories be returned to their lawful owners and that such occupation be ended in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and the requirements of legitimacy, according to Mike Watson, head of a British parliamentary delegation representing the Labour Party.

"We believe that the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands constitutes an obstacle in the path of peace which should be just and lasting," Mr. Watson told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

He said the visiting delegation is on a 10-day tour of the region to make a close-hand study of the Arab-Israeli situation, and is concentrating on the Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Watson, who is leading the three-member group accompanied by a four-member staff, said the team started its tour on May 26 in Lebanon.

"We visited refugee camps in Syria and met with government officials to discuss bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process," added Mr. Watson, who met here Tuesday with the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House.

In the West Bank, the British parliamentarians plan to visit the autonomy rule areas of Jericho and Gaza to tour refugee camps and hold talks with Palestinian leaders in the "Orient House" in East Jerusalem.

When asked about the Labour Party's views on the Jordanian position in the

Arab-Israeli peace talks, he said the Kingdom plays a key role in the peace process and constitutes a very basic component for the attainment of a just peace.

During the group's meeting at Parliament Tuesday, Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Abdul Hadi Majali, stressed Jordan's commitment to peace, but said the numerous obstacles laid by Israel in the path of peace and the ambiguity that currently shrouds the peace process arouses suspicion about the prospects of peace in the region.

Referring to the PLO-Israeli agreement reached in Paris on economic issues, Mr. Majali said the deal represents an obstacle in the path of a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on economic matters of concern to both peoples.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Regent receives British microlight team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Tuesday received the British microlight team of Ben Ashman and Judy Leden and the accompanying two-man crew. Prince Mohammad welcomed the world army gliding champions and expressed appreciation to them for their humanitarian mission to raise funds for cancer patients worldwide. Prince Mohammad instructed the parties concerned to facilitate their mission. The team is on a "Flight for Life" mission designed to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign.

#### Queen Zein eulogised at orphanage

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday attended a special ceremony at Umm Al Hussein Orphanage to mark the completion of the reading of the Holy

Koran and prayers for the soul of the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf. The Queen mother, who passed away on April 26, Secretary General of Umm Al Hussein Orphanage Society Ihsan Al Zein delivered a eulogy citing Queen Zein's contributions to the Jordanian society. Mrs. Al Zein recalled the late Queen Mother's noble principles and said the society will follow the same path she had charted. One of the orphanage's students read out a short poem recalling Queen Zein's deeds and implored God to rest her soul in peace.

#### Dutch envoy ends tour of duty

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ambassador of the Netherlands in Jordan G.N. Westruyen Van Meeteren paid farewell visits this week upon the end of his tour of duty. Mr. Van Meeteren, who is also ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, will return home from Damascus on June 7.

## UNRWA meeting seeks to determine future of services, peace implementation programme

By Jennifer Hamarneh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) annual, informal meeting of donor and host governments opens today with two significant items on its agenda that will seek to determine the future of continuing UNRWA services to the refugees and that of the Peace Implementation Programme (PIP) launched in October 1993, UNRWA sources said Tuesday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Commissioner-General Iler Turkmen Tuesday said that funding for PIP has been progressing "extremely well."

Mr. Turkmen said UNRWA had identified projects totalling \$120 million aimed at three specific objectives: to improve the basic physical and social services infrastructure, especially in those sectors where the Palestinians are expected to assume authority in the future; to create urgently needed jobs; and to support the peace process by improving the social and economic living conditions of Palestinians.

The commissioner-general reported that, to date, UNRWA has received contributions and firm pledges of \$85 million for the West Bank and Gaza. He added that the projects are in the phase of implementation which includes construction, tenders and other contracts that have put PIP "on the right track."

Mr. Turkmen said that in the larger picture of the international effort to rebuild the West Bank and Gaza, in light of the signing of the Declaration of Principles (DoP) on September 13, 1993 between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, what distinguishes UNRWA's endeavour is that the only substantive money yet spent towards this goal has been through the agency.

He explained that prior to the signing of the DoP, UNRWA had already begun a services upgrade project in these areas for which the

agency had received \$75 million. In total, the funds for PIP plus the \$75 million allocated earlier translate into much more work for UNRWA and more employment of Palestinian contractors, engineers and workers, said the commissioner-general.

As an example, he said, 90 Palestinian engineers have been employed in Gaza. "UNRWA was able to give the initial push," but the effort also needs wider projects such as telecommunications systems, airports, roads, etc., said Mr. Turkmen.

Speaking about what PIP would mean to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, the countries hosting Palestinian refugees, Mr. Turkmen stressed that UNRWA has always maintained that the focus should not be on the West Bank and Gaza alone.

"The refugees in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan should see the tangible benefits of the peace process," said Mr. Turkmen adding that this concept was strongly supported by the multilateral working group on refugees formed at the October 1991 Madrid Middle East peace conference.

In this area, UNRWA identified service upgrade projects worth \$65 million for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the commissioner-general told the Jordan Times.

Progress in this effort has also been made, and UNRWA has received thus far \$10 million in firm pledges, according to Mr. Turkmen. Turning to the other major item on the agenda of the two-day donor and host governments meeting — the agency's budget and financial systems — Mr. Turkmen reported that UNRWA, the only geographic-specific agency of the U.N. other than the peacekeeping forces, faces a budget deficit that can be tot'led in two distinct ways.

He explained that if UNRWA were to proceed with the austerity measures it was forced to take last year, it is, continue to delete items from its regular budget thus



Mothers crowd into an UNRWA health clinic at Khan, Younis in the Gaza Strip earlier this year (UNRWA photo)

cutting much needed services and programmes and seriously affecting the lives of its beneficiaries, the budget deficit for 1994 would be forecast at \$21 million.

But if UNRWA were able to return to its regular programmes and its original mandate to continuously improve its services to Palestine refugees, Mr. Turkmen explained, its revised 1994 budget deficit would come to \$43 million.

As examples of the mounting need for improved services to the refugees, UNRWA sources said that in Gaza, UNRWA school classrooms are filled on average with more than 50 students, and the agency's doctors examine about 100 patients per day.

"If we reduce the \$43 million deficit to \$21 million under the austerity measures, we eliminate programmes,

which means less employment for and a decrease in the living standards of the beneficiaries," said Mr. Turkmen.

"But if we build new schools and health clinics," as has been UNRWA's purpose, "we need more teachers and doctors," added the commissioner-general.

When asked about UNRWA activities in Jordan, Mr. Turkmen, who spoke to the Jordan Times at the site of the agency's headquarters branch, pointed to the newly constructed surroundings saying that the phased move of operational units from the Vienna UNRWA headquarters to Amman which began last year will be completed in July.

Adjacent to the UNRWA Headquarters Branch, which has been located in Wadi Seer for many years, the new building will house the

health, programme and planning, supply and relief and social services departments, as well as the technical offices (already in place since last year).

Mr. Turkmen said that by 1995 the newly moved operational units will have recruited 200 employees from the local community. UNRWA employs a total of 6,000 people in Jordan field offices.

The commissioner-general said UNRWA has been actively recruiting staff for the transferred units, including auditors, secretaries, engineers, architects and support staff, adding that "the talent is available."

Looking ahead to the prospects and implications of peace in the region, Mr. Turkmen told the Jordan Times that UNRWA's aim has always been to improve the living conditions of Pales-

tine refugees through enabling their self-reliance. This, he stressed, has been achieved through education and vocational training.

"Now that peace and a solution to the refugee problem looms larger, UNRWA's main ambition is to prepare our beneficiaries to achieve more self-reliance in order to benefit more fully from the outcomes of a peaceful settlement in the region," said Mr. Turkmen.

Following the two-day meeting, which is being held at the Philadelphia Hotel, participants will travel to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to get a "first-hand impression of the agency's work as well as meet with UNRWA official and Palestinian leaders," according to an agency statement. The statement said the participants will return to Jordan on June 6 to inspect UNRWA installations.

## Victim of incestuous rape killed by second brother

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 16-year-old girl Monday was stabbed to death in Jabal Hashemi Shamali by her 31-year-old brother for adultery with another brother in Al Zagait suburb, according to police and family sources.

The woman, identified as Kifaya D. received several stabs to the neck and chest, inflicted by her brother Khalid, who surrendered to police shortly after the killing, a close relative of the victim told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

According to the relative, Kifaya was raped by her younger brother Mohammad, (22) six months ago, and he threatened to kill her if she told her family.

Two months later, Kifaya discovered that she was pregnant, the relative said, adding that she was then obliged to explain her condition to her family and reveal that she had been raped by her brother.

When her brother Mohammad heard that his sister revealed the rape to the family, he tried to kill her by cutting her wrist, said the relative. Another family member told the Jordan Times that the girl had had an abortion and afterwards was married to a 50-year-old man and moved out of the neighbourhood.

Monday, Kifaya's husband divorced her, and Kifaya returned to her family's house.

According to the relative, Khalid, in his testimony to police, he said family and relatives urged him to kill his

sister to "cleanse the family honour because she had been raped by her brother."

The relative said Khalid told police he went to the family house at about 1:00 a.m. Tuesday, took hold of a kitchen knife, found his sister and asked her to pray to God before stabbing her to death.

The next door neighbour told the Jordan Times that his family heard a woman screaming and begging for mercy, at about 1:00 a.m. the same morning.

When the neighbour went out to check what was happening, he said he saw Khalid waving a knife in the air and shouting, "There, I have cleansed my family's honour."

The neighbour said that Khalid's relatives, who gathered to witness the event, started ululating and praising Khalid.

According to the neighbour, a family member told Khalid, "you have done a good job, well done."

Another witness told the Jordan Times that Kifaya's body was mutilated, and some parts of her stomach were removed and scattered about her.

Police confirmed the killing and said both brothers were in custody pending further investigation into the case. But they declined to release any further information.

Kifaya is the 12th woman to be reported killed in a "crime of honour" in Jordan this year.

Kifaya was one of ten siblings in a family where the father had abandoned the mother, said a relative.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- Exhibition by artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre.
  - Exhibition of photographs of "The Living Dead Sea" by Paula Williams-Brown at The Gallery of the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
  - Installation entitled "Ephemerals of a Circle" by artist Noël Favrelière at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).
  - Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.
  - Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

- LECTURE**
- Lecture by Lebanese critic Samir Sayegh entitled "The Effect of Islamic Art on Contemporary Art" at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 6:00 p.m.

## TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the retendering of the following tender as a part of the Education Sector Investment project.

Tender's No.	Title	Financed Through	Fees
3393	Steel Frames	IBRD (3106-JO)	JD(100)

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's documents from Procurement Division of the Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, starting June 1st, 1994 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10:00 a.m. of June 30, 1994

Head of Special Tenders Committee



As noted above, several Republicans have already indicated their inclinations to jump into the 1996 race for the presidency. These come from all wings of the party, and the overall list is quite impressive. At this writing a partial list would include: Senate minority leader Bob Dole, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp, former Vice President Dan Quayle, Texas Senator Phil Gramm, former Secretary of State James Baker, former Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney, commentator Pat Buchanan, Massachusetts Governor William Weld, Pennsylvania Governor Arlen Specter, former secretary of Education Lamar Alexander, and South Carolina Governor Carroll Campbell. In my article I will report on their efforts to date and offer an analysis of their chances for winning the nomination.



# Evolution in a hurry

By Walter R. Mears  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It looked like an about-face on China policy. According to President Bill Clinton, it wasn't. It was evolution, he said, on a problem position that was former president George Bush's fault anyhow. That strain to explain a reversal — the administration went to the point of calling it a show of American resolve — is the sort of mixed message that may account for confusion about overall Clinton foreign policy.

Candor, even about change, might muffle some critics. Ironically, Clinton's new stand on China trade and human rights bears striking similarity to the policy Mr. Bush enforced with vetoes when the U.S. Congress tried to punish Beijing. Mr. Clinton's reasoning sounds the same.

It's good business, it keeps the lines to Beijing open and times have changed. Besides, the effort to enhance human rights abroad not always fit the policy that's best for U.S. security interests.

In renewing Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) trading status for China, Mr. Clinton said he no longer intended to link MFN extensions to Beijing's human rights record.

There's a solid, common-sense case to be made for all that. As Sen. Sam Nunn said in supporting Mr. Clinton's decision, "it was a question of human rights in China, which is important, but not vital to the United States."

But two years ago, candidate Clinton said Mr. Bush had coddled tyrants with his China policy. A year ago, President Clinton signed an executive order demanding human rights advances as the price of a renewal of China's preferential trade status.

He now says the two should be separated, "delinked" in diplomatic jargon. It was a predictable outcome. Trade is the central, and most successful, face of Mr. Clinton's policy abroad. A break with China also would have affected other U.S. interests, notably in countering North Korean efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

"A world of free and stable trading partners is not only good for our economic security, it's important for our national security," Mr. Clinton said in his weekend radio address. He said that's why he'd worked to win world trade agreements, "and now to try to engage the Chinese to support not only human rights in that country, but the continuing evolution of economic integration."

Evolution again, and in a hurry. Announcing his China decision, Mr. Clinton had said he wasn't alone in coming to that judgment, that others in Congress and the political community "have also evolved in their view."

Besides, he said, human rights demands were linked to Most-Favoured-Nation status for China in the first place because the Republican White House didn't react firmly enough to the 1989 killings of democracy demonstrators. He said it was done because of "the frustration of the Congress that the previous administration had reestablished relationships too quickly after Tiananmen Square, and there seemed to be no other aggressive human rights strategy."

His course, Mr. Clinton said, had been one of "aggressive contacts" with the Chinese on human rights. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the policy now will be "comprehensive engagement."

Terms like those may mean something in diplomatic circles, but they don't do a thing to help Mr. Clinton with what he says is the problem in foreign policy, a failure to communicate so as to gain understanding and support.

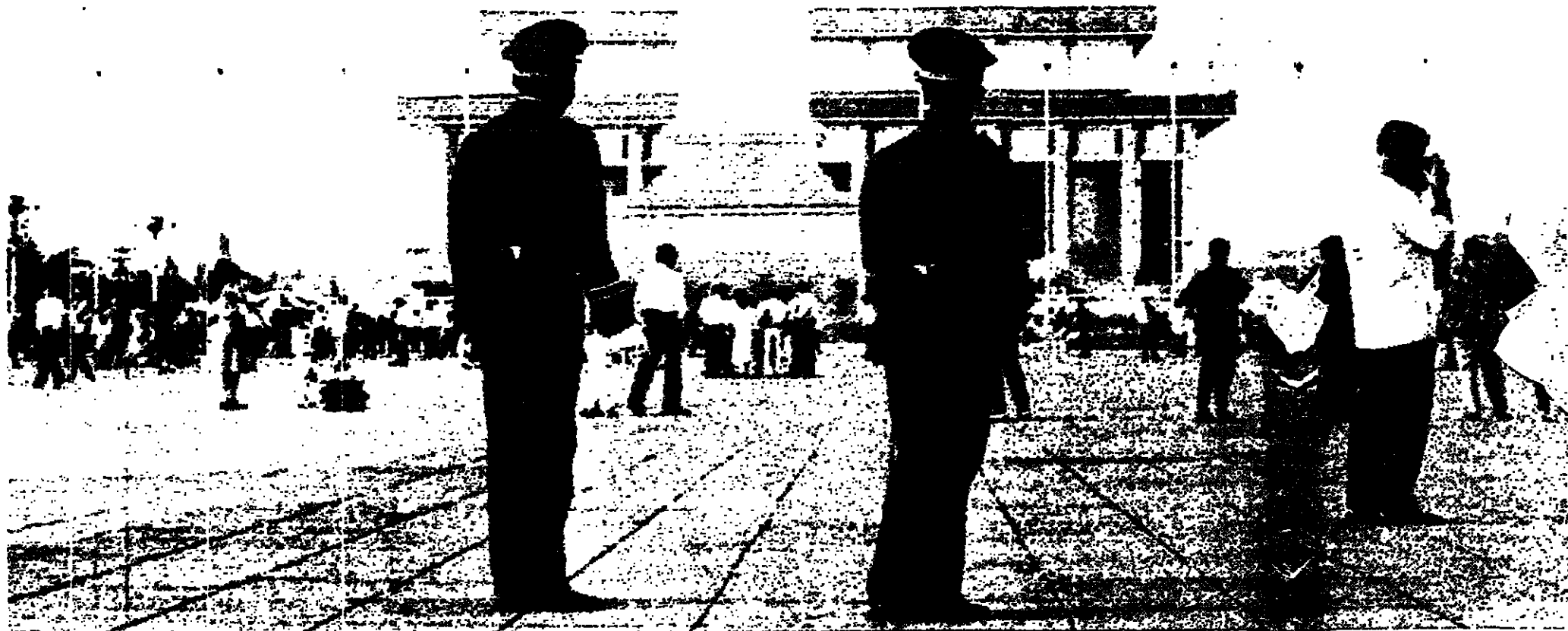
"What I need to be doing is considering changing whatever it is that is not inspiring people's confidence in me and, if we've made some mistakes, we need to fix it," Mr. Clinton told the Los Angeles Times.

There was no shortage of advice as to what should come first. "Foreign policy cannot be waged on charm and wishful thinking," Republican Rep. Gerald Solomon of New York said in the Republicans' weekend radio address. He said confusion and ambiguous signals are the problem with Mr. Clinton's opposition democratic administration.

BEIJING — Two McDonald's hamburger restaurants do brisk business on the boulevard through Beijing's Tiananmen Square, down which Chinese tanks trundled to crush student-led protests five years ago.

All along the avenue of eternal peace, where in 1989 more than one million people marched against corruption and inflation and for basic freedoms, pricey boutiques and neon-lit restaurants have sprung up as if to prove that the name of the game today is "purchase" and not "protest."

Five years after the bloody June 3-4 army assault on pro-democracy protesters that



Armed police patrol Tiananmen Square in pairs a few days before the fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy protesters. Uniformed and plainclothes security in the square

men Square massacre of pro-democracy protesters. Uniformed and plainclothes security in the square

and around the city has been stepped up as the June 4 anniversary nears (AFP photo)

## Five years after massacre, China turns the page

By David Schlesinger  
Reuters

BEIJING — Two McDonald's hamburger restaurants do brisk business on the boulevard through Beijing's Tiananmen Square, down which Chinese tanks trundled to crush student-led protests five years ago.

All along the avenue of eternal peace, where in 1989 more than one million people marched against corruption and inflation and for basic freedoms, pricey boutiques and neon-lit restaurants have sprung up as if to prove that the name of the game today is "purchase" and not "protest."

Five years after the bloody June 3-4 army assault on pro-democracy protesters that

shocked the world and stunned China's people, the newly capitalist Communist Party is riding high.

Its bold experiments with markets have improved people's lives and let millions express themselves through entrepreneurship instead of activism.

Two consecutive years of the world's fastest economic growth have created a business fever so strong that even U.S. President Bill Clinton, who came to office pledging not to coddle Beijing's "dictators," decided last week to separate trade issues from human rights.

"The wind is really in their sails now," a Western diplomat said of the Communist Party leaders.

Few in China have forgotten the heady exuberance of

protests in the spring of 1989 that turned to tragedy so quickly once the order to kill was given.

The time around, the June 4 anniversary is especially hard for those personally involved.

"This year is even worse," said Ding Zilin, a university professor whose 17-year-old son was shot dead by the army. "This is always the hardest time for me."

But most people are looking forward to a time when they can be even bolder in business and not looking back to Tiananmen.

"Things should be even better. If the situation hasn't changed by the time I am 40, I'll kill myself," said a 29-year-old man who dropped out of a state-controlled job to start his own company. "I

want to make money." In a phenomenon that is transforming China, foreign companies and investment funds are pouring in to open up the country.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin recently declared that the better lives people now lead prove that the 1989 crackdown was justified. "A bad thing has been turned into a good thing," said Mr. Jiang, who is also president.

"History shows that anything conducive to our national stability is good. Without the resolute measures taken then, China would not have enjoyed today's stability."

The problem for the party is how to maintain that stability, and inflation topping 20 per cent a year is a serious

threat. So too are the persistent reports of labour strife and a breakdown of law and order in the countryside.

Finance Minister Liu Zhongli recently warned against blind optimism amid such problems as unpaid workers, mismanaged state firms and galloping inflation.

He told the economic daily that uneven development had left some local governments so short of cash that they have been unable to pay salaries to state workers.

"We should not be blindly optimistic on the situation for the whole year, nor should we relax our guard," Mr. Liu said.

The same worry about potential problems led the supreme court chief to demand a ruthless crushing of

any trouble in rural areas. Many of the 900 million peasants are falling behind their city cousins' new prosperity.

Even the official press has reported on rural warlordism, banditry, deadly clan feuds, violent uprisings and festering resentment.

A collapse of order in the countryside would plunge the country into chaos far worse than that experienced in 1989.

For the moment, however, there are more warning signs than actual outbreaks of trouble.

The numerous uniformed and plainclothes police on alert in Tiananmen square and in the campus district are signs that the Communist leadership is not ignoring the warnings.

### Majali stresses

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian-Jordanian relationship.

"The Palestinians who have started to handle their own affairs look to Jordan for assistance during this critical transitional stage," Dr. Anani added.

Referring to the mechanism for the implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic accord, the minister said that "no problems exist in this concern." The Palestinians, however, have requested a week's delay before signing the final agreement in view of the work pressure they are facing at the moment, said Dr. Anani.

Dr. Anani said that two points are still outstanding be-

fore the agreement, namely the monetary issue and the licensing of new Jordanian banks in the West Bank and supervision of their operations in addition to questions related to opening an account for the Palestinian monetary authority in the Central Bank of Jordan.

Mr. Freij told reporters that the delegation has reaffirmed its determination to upgrade the level of coordination between the two sides.

Mr. Agha said that Palestine leader Yasser Arafat would visit Jordan in the coming few days and officials from the two sides would hold further meetings to increase the level of cooperation and implement bilateral agreements.

### Rabin says

(Continued from page 1)

said. Top Russian diplomat Victor Posoluyuk said after meetings in Damascus and with Mr. Rabin in Jerusalem Monday that he believed Syria wanted peace.

Mr. Rabin told the committee no matter how much the Syrians wanted peace, "I am looking for an expression of it."

Israel has sought secret high-level talks with Damascus similar to those which led to a groundbreaking self-rule deal last year with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The impression is that they do not want direct dialogue with us," Mr. Rabin told the committee.

The talks are stuck with Damascus demanding Israel fully withdraw from the Golan Heights captured in 1967 and

Israel insisting Syria commit itself to "full peace" with open borders, trade and embassies.

Mr. Rabin publicly declined to say they were at a stalemate, telling reporters after the committee meeting: "Not yet. There are gaps. I hope that the U.S. Secretary of State will come for another round and examine things."

Mr. Rabin told the committee he envisaged a slight withdrawal on the Golan in the first stage without any dismantling of Jewish settlements. This would be followed by a discussion of a staged withdrawal to an agreed-upon line.

All of this would take place against a "background of normalisation," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin was also quoted by Israeli state radio as saying peace talks with Syria are blocked and Mr. Christopher is thus unlikely to visit the region as expected in early June.

### NAM aims for

(Continued from page 1)

Colombia were reported to be lobbying the ministerial meeting to host the 1996 summit. It would be the first in Latin America since 1979.

A spokesman for the meeting, Egyptian Nabil Fahmy, said "priority will be given to candidates from Latin American countries."

### Israel to bar

(Continued from page 1)

into the van where three colleagues waited and sped off, the witnesses said.

"The van drove off towards an Israeli military base," said eye-witness Adel Abu Shiyah, 34 years.

Uniformed Israeli troops carried off the two corpses before ambulances arrived. "A few minutes later soldiers and border police in jeeps arrived. They took the bodies and quickly cleaned up before pulling out."

However an AFP reporter watched Palestinians picking through pieces of flesh and skull as well as bullet casings and white surgical gloves which were strewn around.

In Tunis, meanwhile, Mr. Arafat has again suggested his peace deal with Israel is only temporary, likening it to a 7th century truce the prophet Mohammed made with his enemies which fell apart after two years.

"What happened was not all that we wanted, but the best we could get at the worst time," he told a meeting of Palestinian contractors.

Mr. Arafat said the agreement was the first step toward statehood, defying Israel's repeated assertions that it would not allow a Palestinian state to emerge in the West Bank and Gaza.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin announced Tuesday he had given orders not to let Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) secret police Chief Jibril Rajoub leave Jericho after he vowed to pursue the armed struggle against Israel.

The premier reportedly said that he took the decision after an inflammatory speech by Mr. Rajoub at the beidun village of Laqiyah in the Negev desert.

"We will continue to fight until the creation of a state with Jerusalem as its capital," the secret police chief of the autonomous West Bank enclave of Jericho reportedly said Friday.

Hamas, meanwhile rejected Palestinian police demands

that it hand over Hamas gunmen who killed two suspected collaborators in Gaza last week.

On Sunday, Hamas said it would stop killing collaborators and give the Palestinian police a chance to deal with them.

The police, in the first open challenge to Islamic militants in Gaza, had vowed to arrest and try the gunmen who killed the two men.

Police Commander Major-General Nasr Youssef described the killings as a crime and said they were carried out by "gangs within Hamas." He threatened tough action against anyone who undermined police authority. A PLO official said the police officially asked Hamas to hand over the gunmen.

Mr. Arafat has failed to persuade Hamas to join the national authority.

Economic tigers

Mr. Arafat told more than 200 Palestinian businessmen Tuesday that he wanted their plans for reconstruction to turn the new self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho into "economic tigers."

More than 200 Palestinian businessmen from inside and outside occupied territories met in Tunis for the first time to draw up plans for the reconstruction of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, an Arab union representing businessmen from the Gulf, Lebanon, Egypt and other North African countries plan to meet in the West Bank or Gaza Strip in September.

Awni Saket, president of the Executive Council of the Arab entrepreneurs union, said the group decided to hold its next meeting "on Palestinian land" at a place to be agreed by the Palestinian self-rule government.

It was not immediately known whether the meeting would be held in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

### U.N. begins debate

(Continued from page 1)

ern artillery," Mr. Bagamall said. The north's Soviet-made 130 mm cannon have a maximum range of about 27 km

although northerners have attacked Aden's airport with missiles, which are less accurate but have a longer range.

Mr. Bagamall did not say if the northern forces would storm the city, which southern leaders named as their capital when they announced 10 days ago that the South was seceding from a four-year union with the north.

Southern armoured forces drove back a lightning northern advance in a tank battle at the village at Waht just 20 kilometres from Aden.

Two northern tank crewmen were killed and 12 others taken prisoner, while one villager was also killed and 10 wounded, according to a toll given by a reporter from official Aden television at the scene. Sakaf Al Qafid.

A T-54 tank was overturned at the entrance of Waht, while black smoke billowed from three other tanks outside Waht, in south Yemen's Lahij province.

The main road was littered with empty shell casings and several houses were destroyed. Southern soldiers and militiamen backed by Mil Mi-8 helicopters raked the area with rocket and automatic weapons fire, while northern artillery on the nearby Sobbeha mountains provided cover for the retreating tanks.

Troops loyal to Mr. Saleh have opened up two new fronts to the north and northwest of Aden.

Mr. Saleh told officers in Sanaa that their troops had launched "the last decisive battle against the band of rebels and separatists." A northern spokesman said Waht had fallen to northern forces.

But the attack on Waht was repelled and a military spokesman in Waht said Mr. Beidh's forces had also "countered" a thrust begun Monday on other

Lahij villages 105 kilometres to the northwest.

Mr. Saleh's forces, who were "indiscriminately shelling schools and public buildings" in those villages, suffered "heavy losses" in attacks by southern warplanes, he added.

The north launched the new attack "after its failure" at the southern Al Anad air base 60 kilometres north of Aden, and Bab Al Mandab/Kharaz, 120 kilometres west of Waht.

Correspondents also reported heavy fighting on another new front 60 kilometres west of Waht, with northern tanks, hidden in sand dunes, firing shells at southern forces, who were firing multiple rocket launchers.

The two sides were also fighting Tuesday along the Abyan front and in the southern oil region of Shabwa, both east of Aden.

Several MiG-21 fighter jets were spotted taking off from Aden airport.

Two German-registered ships reported Tuesday that surface-to-air missiles were fired at them while they were in international waters in the Gulf of Aden off Yemen. Lloyd's Casualty Reporting Service said.

It quoted the container vessel Norasia Samantha as saying the missiles landed at 0900 GMT when it was nine miles offshore, headed towards Bab Al Mandab at the mouth of the Red Sea.

Meanwhile the United Nations has drawn up contingency plans to evacuate to safer areas Somali refugees caught in the crossfire of Yemen's civil war, a U.N. official said.

"We have contingency plans to move the refugees to other places if necessary whenever this is required," said Awni Al And, Resident U.N. Coordinator in Yemen.

"If we feel they are unsafe where they are now, we will move them to safer areas. We have envisaged all kinds of eventualities," he added.

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## Japan turns tables on 'unfair trade policies'

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan, preparing to reopen tough trade talks with the United States, turned the tables on its major trading partners Tuesday by declaring "all are sinners" for employing unfair trade policies.

In an official report, the ministry of international trade and industry accused the United States of continuing to use "unilateral measures" to settle trade disputes.

The report addressed "unfair trade policies" by 10 major trading partners of Japan, which is often portrayed as the bad guy in world trade because of its huge trade surpluses, and emphasised the country's commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The WTO will be set up in January to enforce free trade and settle disputes under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "As we have stated, multilateral dispute settlement procedures are the only way to resolve trade conflicts without undermining free trade," the report said.

It challenged trade barriers in the United States, the European Union, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia,

Malaysia and Canada, in such areas as import curbs, anti-dumping laws and rules of origin.

The report particularly denounced as a "serious threat to international trade" the recent revival of the U.S. "Super 301" trade law clause, which authorises punitive measures against countries seen as being unfair trading partners.

The provision was reinstated after Japan broke off trade talks in February by rejecting "numerical targets" in opening Japan's markets to foreign goods. Japan says such measures are managed trade.

The two countries finally agreed last week to reopen trade talks by seeking "objective criteria" in gauging the opening of Japan's markets, focusing on insurance, automobiles, airports and government procurement.

As talks on the insurance business were to start Wednesday, Japan still feared Washington would try to force specific targets, such as the number of dealerships for imported cars.

The report welcomed "progress" made by the United States in eliminating "volun-

tary export restraints" it has forced on such Japanese products as machine tools, automobiles, steel and textiles.

But it said Washington "still uses environmental and national security reasons to place quantitative restrictions on imports."

The report also slammed the legislation on government procurement, called "Buy American" laws, which it said "expressly discriminate against foreign suppliers."

The European Union (EU) also came under fire for following the United States in "abusing" anti-dumping laws and arbitrary applying its own "rules of origin" whereby products made in Europe by Japanese subsidiaries are defined as Japanese.

The report said the EU still demands "voluntary export restraints" on Japanese exports of forklift trucks, textiles and automobiles.

South Korea has lifted curbs on Japanese products but still had problems in the areas of rule of origin, standards and certification system, trade-related investment measures and protection of intellectual property rights, the report said.

## French jobless rate hits 12.3%

PARIS (R) — French unemployment hit another record in April but the slowdown in the rising trend of joblessness was confirmed, figures from the labour ministry showed Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted number of people out of work rose by 4,900, or 0.1 per cent, from March to 3,325,800. That pushed the jobless rate, based on International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria, to 12.3 per cent from 12.2 per cent in March. It was 11.4 per cent a year ago.

The figures were in line with a slower trend, reflected in the rise of only 23,500 in the number of unemployed in the first four months of this year compared to well over four times that in the same period of 1993, at the height of the recession.

Patrick Mange, an economist at Deutsche Bank in Paris, said the April figures confirmed unemployment was slowing and could stabilise at the end of the year.

## Economists: British interest rates will rise before 1995

LONDON (AFP) — After 20 months of uninterrupted cuts in British interest rates, financial analysts now believe they could rise before the end of the year to combat inflationary pressures.

A report from National Westminster Bank warned that interest rates will rise 1.5 per cent over the next year, touching 6.75 per cent by next summer.

It said the rise would begin this autumn with rates going from 5.25 per cent to 5.75 per cent by the end of the year.

This was backed up by forecasts from other economists who predicted that once the government has judged the underlying growth of the economy and the Conservative Party conference in October was out the way, rates could rise.

"Unless there is a currency crisis, they are unlikely to rise before the turn of the year, when they will lift around one per cent," said economist Nigel Richardson at the bank Yamaichi.

Since sterling was brutally ejected from the European Ex-

change Rate Mechanism (ERM) in September 1992, British interest rates have consistently dropped, falling from 12 per cent to 5.25 per cent on Feb. 6.

But statistics evidence that the economy is growing strongly combined with figures showing that large tax rises in April have not stunted economic growth, indicates that the government may have to trim the economy at some point.

Statistics Tuesday showed that Britain's narrowly-defined money supply rose by 0.2 per cent in May from April and by 7.1 per cent year-on-year — far above the government's annual growth target of between zero and four per cent.

Earlier in May, statistics showed that in April, retail sales from 0.4 per cent and unemployment fell a further 36,000 to 9.5 per cent of the working population.

While not warning of inflationary pressures, analysts have taken note that inflation rose to 2.6 per cent in April and that average earnings continue to rise.

Last week, the Confedera-

tion of British Industry (CBI) revised upwards its growth projections for Britain, predicting 2.4 per cent growth in 1994 and 2.5 per cent in 1995 — one tenth of a percentage point up on forecasts in February.

Improved consumer demand and domestic investment lay behind the sunnier outlook, despite tax increases in April, the CBI said.

Weekend press reports also indicated that the government was ready to raise its growth estimates, currently at 2.5 per cent for 1994, to around three per cent.

Share prices have tumbled lower recently following sharp falls in futures and gilts markets as they believe interest rates will not go any lower, and may rise.

On Friday, the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares fell through the key 3,000 barrier to its lowest level since August.

"I wouldn't like to say 'boom boom Britain', but I think we will be seeing headlines like that soon," said Mr. Richardson.

## Saudis make first repayment on sovereign loan

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has repaid the first instalment on a \$4.5 billion sovereign loan it took out in 1991 to help pay the costs of the Gulf war, bankers involved in the transaction said Monday.

They said the government paid \$900 million to the banks on May 22 or 21, the first of five quarterly payments to be made before the loan is paid off in May 1995.

Low oil prices in late 1993 and early 1994 had severely squeezed government coffers, but most bankers said they had felt Saudi Arabia would not jeopardise its good name. "I don't think there was any sort of doubt they would repay on time," one banker said.

The authorities will nonetheless have to come up with another \$900 million in late August, in November, February and May.

"I don't think they will fail to repay," another banker said. "If so they will lose confidence very badly in the international market."

There had always been the possibility the government could have asked the banks to reschedule the loan or to go for a new one.

Instead, it appeared to have opted for a combination of fiscal austerity and relying on government agencies and companies to borrow for major new projects and purchases rather than resorting to a new international sovereign borrowing.

It will also be helped by a 25 per cent rise in oil prices since late March, though it was impossible to be sure that prices would not decline again.

## World oil prices seen continuing to rise

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — World oil prices should continue rising gently this year after hitting a five-year low in February, according to delegates at the World Petroleum Congress being held in this western Norwegian oil town.

Increasing global demand for oil, especially from energy-hungry Asia, combined with responsible behaviour from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) backs this feeling that oil prices are on their way back up.

"There's a lot of light at the end of the tunnel. It's a bank vault door that's opening," International Energy Agency (IEA) Deputy Director John Ferriter told reporters.

After hitting \$13 per barrel in February, the lowest point in five years, the benchmark North Sea Brent price has rebounded to over \$16. Brent oil for July loading was traded at \$16.32 on Tuesday, down slightly from Friday.

A decision by OPEC states in March to freeze their combined output at 24.52 million barrels per day (b/d) is seen as having underpinned the firmness in prices.

OPEC Secretary General Subroto told delegates in Stavanger that he expected no change to the production

quotas when the organisation meets in two weeks' time, even though world demand for oil is rising considerably.

Analysts, looking at demand growth projections to the turn of the century, also paint a picture of recovering oil prices.

Oil company executives have been cautiously optimistic at the Stavanger meeting, citing research that says demand for oil will grow by around one million b/d every year until the end of the century.

"The lower price is pushing up demand everywhere, and surprisingly fast," said Constantine Nicandros, chief executive of U.S. oil giant Conoco.

British Petroleum (B.P.) chief economist Peter Davies told the congress the rapidly growing economies of East Asia were hungry for oil to power their expansion plans.

He said China, a potentially huge consumer of external oil supplies, had probably become a net oil importer recently as industrial expansion outstrips domestic energy production.

Mr. Davies said OPEC's slice of world oil production looked set to rise because of flagging output in the United States, North Sea production that is set to peak in a few

years' time and continuing chaos in Russia.

The former Soviet Union was the world's largest oil producer, but output has been slashed because of lack of investment and political uncertainty.

Dr. Subroto presented a scenario for OPEC oil demand to congress delegates that envisaged a near doubling of crude oil production from the 12 member states over the next 25 years to around 50 million b/d.

Analysts say such predictions are somewhat fanciful, given the number of imponderables that can affect oil production and prices.

However many industry experts agree that OPEC's influence will strengthen provided it can avoid internal rifts that have severely damaged its credibility in the past.

There appears to be little pressure from OPEC members to cash in on firming prices by opening the oil taps wider. Dr. Subroto said he did not expect the June 15 meeting in Vienna to produce any change to OPEC's production ceiling or individual states' output quotas.

The possible return of Iraq to world export markets is seen as the major cloud on the

horizon for OPEC.

Baghdad has been barred by the U.N. from exporting oil since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The IEA's Ferriter said falling interest in energy saving by consumers was also beginning to feed through into increased oil demand. "Consumers, with rising incomes, are less sensitive to energy saving."

"We have assumed in our outlook a substantial firming of oil prices. We see what the demand numbers are, particularly from the Asia-Pacific region," he added.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 1, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Today you can make important decisions and get excellent results putting your personal affairs on a more solid structure and gaining added goodwill. Avoid unnecessary expenditures of capital.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can benefit a great deal with a concerted effort in career activities now. This is an ideal evening for entertaining congenials.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be alert to new marketing ideas that could make your regular routines more efficient. Express happiness with friends tonight and have fun.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Study your financial status well and make plans to have more security. Show others that you can be relied upon when there is a crisis.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to pursue personal aims that are important to you and get good results. Think constructively on how to get things done.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Confer with a financial expert for advice you need. The evening is fine for having a pleasant time with the one you love.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Study the position you hold in your community and try

to improve it in some way. Show that you have ability to get problems settled.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Make sure business affairs are well handled early in the day. The evening is fine for deepening bonds between you and friends you meet.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Take time to study new outlets that could help you become more successful in the future. Use more of your latent talents on new projects.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be sure not to invest more money than you can afford in a new project. The evening can be a happy one with mate.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Listening to the suggestions of associates can bring greater benefits in the future. Don't neglect important bills which need paying.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can easily handle all those tasks ahead of you if you persevere and don't scatter your forces. Be logical in all of your activities.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Put your finest talents to work early in the day and get excellent results. Engage in hobbies during your spare time and get much accomplished.

## Singapore opens telecom market

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore Tuesday announced it was opening its telecommunications market, currently monopolised by Singapore Telecom, to other companies in a bid to improve service and bring down prices.

Minister of State for Finance

and Communications, Teo Chee Hean, said competition "will met Singaporeans' demand for better quality and greater variety of mobile communication services at competitive prices."

Mr. Teo said the Telecom-

munication Authority of Singapore (TAS), the government body overseeing the industry, would open mobile phone and radio paging services to other companies in 1997, when exclusive rights held by Singapore Telecom expire.

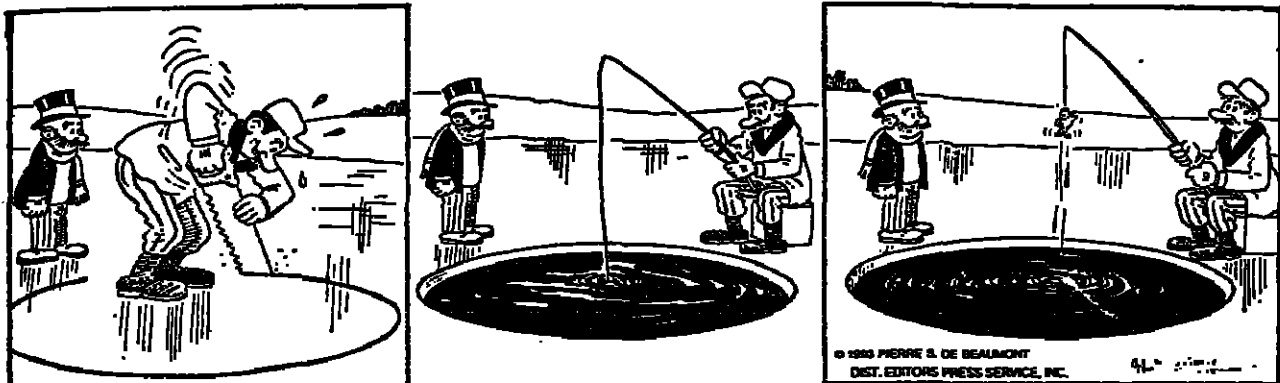
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



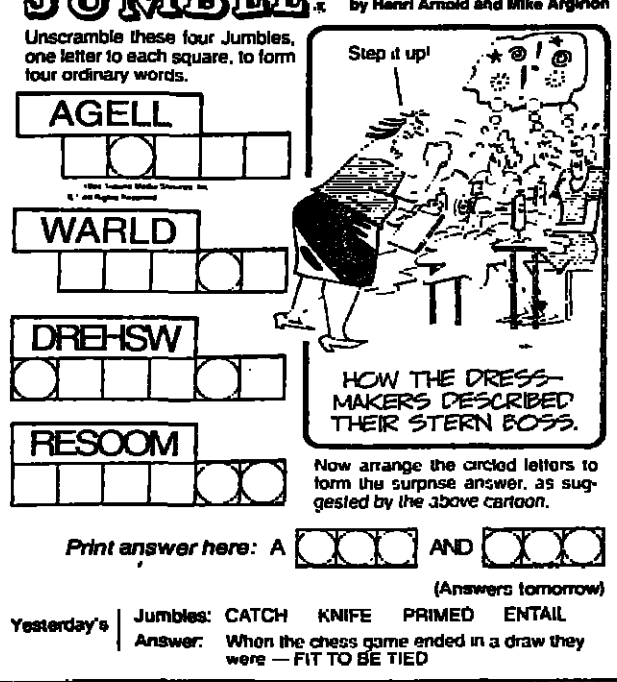
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



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## Rwanda massacre report probed; U.N. officer killed in Kigali

KIGALI (R) — The U.N. rushed investigators on Tuesday to a camp in government-held territory in Rwanda where aid workers said 500 people were massacred.

Rebels and government troops resumed fighting despite talk of a truce and U.N. officials and witnesses reported that an officer serving with the U.N. force was killed by a mortar blast just inside the government-held part of Kigali.

The blast hit his vehicle, marked with the U.N. emblem and flying the U.N. flag, on a city centre bridge near a nightclub.

A U.N. armoured personnel carrier and several vehicles rushed to scene, where the officer was still in his car with a large piece of shrapnel in his head. His name and nationality were not immediately released but he was the 12th peacekeeper killed in Rwanda since violence flared on April 6.

The reported massacre was the latest indication that mass killings were continuing in the central African nation, where half a million people are estimated to have died in seven weeks.

If confirmed, it would undermine a truce plan to which warring parties say they are committed in principle, exacerbate a massive refugee problem and set back a U.N. peace plan.

The U.N. needs a ceasefire to complete evacuation of civilians from the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes trapped in each other's strongholds under fear of attack. Fighting forced a halt to the process after evacuations Friday and Saturday.

Rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and government forces were already trading mortar and small arms fire from dawn despite agreeing at their first direct talks to seek a truce.

Several mortar rounds slammed into the streets around the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) headquarters in a rebel-held eastern part of the city, witnesses said.

A meeting set for Thursday to pursue a ceasefire could now be scuttled if the massacre of the 500, mostly Tutsis, is confirmed. The Tutsi-dominated RPF has vowed to fight until killings in government-controlled areas are stopped.

Reports by aid workers said the 500 were butchered Saturday at Kabagayi, where thousands of people, mostly Tutsi, are living in concentration-camp conditions 50 kilometres southwest of the capital Kigali.

"This is an allegation made (by aid officials) that 500 people were massacred. The information I have is that it was recent, very recent," UNAMIR Major Jean-Guy Plante told Reuters.

Aid workers estimate 500,000 people, most of them Tutsi and opposition Hutus, have been massacred by government troops and Hutu death squads since Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

UNAMIR Executive Director Abdul Kabia said two teams of U.N. military observers would brave the road to Kabagayi, which passes through checkpoints manned by government soldiers and drunken Hutu militias wielding machetes and clubs, to check the reports.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said two weeks ago it estimated 20,000 Tutsi refugees were trapped at a former Roman Catholic seminary at Kabagayi.

Journalists on a visit to the complex saw about 1,000 refugees hiding in an enclosure. They said government troops were forcing Tutsis out each day and handing them over to Hutu militiamen for slaughter. The route southwest of

Kigali to Gitarama and Kabagayi is choked with thousands of Hutus fleeing an RPF advance.

Some are heading on to neighbouring Burundi, where an influx of refugees and the ethnic problems in Rwanda are threatening a major crisis of its own, according to aid workers.

The charity Oxfam warned the U.N. Monday that Burundi could go the bloody way of Rwanda if something is not done about hundreds of thousands of refugees ready to stream across its border.

With the warring parties no closer to a firm truce, the U.N. looked no nearer to its goal of reinforcing its small mission in Rwanda and providing humanitarian aid.

The U.N. mission in Rwanda suspended all its operations after the death of the officer.

UNAMIR said all movement of officers and convoys had been suspended until the situation stabilised.

"It is inhuman to ask someone to go out when he sees his friend has fallen," UNAMIR's deputy force commander Brigadier-General Henry Anyidoho told reporters.

"We have tried to talk to both (warring) sides every day to let us continue humanitarian assistance. They just don't seem to listen."

## Amnesty: Thousands of Chinese dissidents still in jail

BEIJING (AFP) — Amnesty International Tuesday called on the Chinese government to release "thousands" of prisoners who it said remain in jail after the crushing of the 1989 Chinese pro-democracy movement.

In a report marking the fifth anniversary this Saturday of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the London-based human rights organisation said: "Despite China's rapid economic changes that have increased freedoms and relaxed social controls, there has been no fundamental change in the government's human rights policy."

The 47-page Amnesty report, distributed to the foreign press here, said arbitrary arrest, unfair trials, torture and use of the death penalty were widespread.

Thousands of Chinese arrested in 1989 are still being held, many in arduous conditions, and some of them undergoing torture, the document said, citing several cases, particularly in Hanyang Prison, in the central province of Hubei.

Amnesty said the number of political prisoners in China is far above the 3,000 so-called "counter-revolutionaries" given by the authorities.

This is because many people sentenced after Tiananmen Square were jailed on such charges as "disturbing public order" or "destroying public property," which meant they would never be officially categorised as political offenders.

The report says 171 people have been held in a "Reform Through Labour" camp in Qinghe, between Beijing and Tianjin, over the past five years, and another group of 35 demonstrators are being held in Beijing's Number 2 Prison.

It also identifies 75 persons killed by the People's Liberation Army on June 4, 1989 and the following days.

The crushing of the seven-week-old movement left 300 dead, according to an official count, although human rights groups and dissidents say the real toll is in the thousands.

The Amnesty report comes on the heels of a study by the New York-based group Human Rights Watch/Asia, which says that several hundred pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing alone are still behind bars.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Jiang Zemin hammered home Tuesday the importance of studying Deng Xiaoping theory during an impassioned call for party discipline, just days before the fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

## Russian troops should train in U.S. — senator

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Senator Sam Nunn proposed Tuesday that Russian troops be sent to the United States for peacekeeping exercises — a move that would defuse nationalist anger over plans for American forces to train in Russia.

Sen. Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in Moscow he would propose to President Bill Clinton that joint exercises originally scheduled for the Volga region in July be transferred to a base in the United States.

Sen. Nunn expected no alarm at home over what only a decade ago would have been viewed with horror by many in Washington.

"I think our American people will welcome a Russian military force for peacekeeping exercises," he told a news conference after talks with Russian deputies.

"This exercise is not designed to use armoured vehicles or tanks it is not even designed for live firing," Sen. Nunn said. "But it has obviously been a sensitive subject here and it seems to me we can further our objectives by beginning... in the U.S."

Sen. Nunn said it would be up to the president to decide when and where the exercises would take place, but suggested the National Training Centre at Fort Irwin, California, as a possible venue.

"It would be my hope that there would be reciprocity at some time in the future," the Georgia Democrat said.

Vladimir Lukin, head of the Russian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said he

welcomed the proposal as a concession to national sensitivities. "It's not just a question of substance in such matters but a matter of fact."

The exercises, largely a command operation involving only a few hundred troops, were scheduled for the Totskoye testing range in southern Russia. But Mr. Yeltsin ordered a review of the plan last month after angry protests in parliament, and the Defence Ministry halted preparations two weeks ago.

Some nationalist deputies described the exercises as an affront to the country and an incursion on its security.

Ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, one of the fiercest opponents of the concept of U.S. forces on Russian soil, seems likely, however, to welcome the prospect of Russian soldiers in the United States.

Russia is seeking United Nations status for its own peacekeeping operations on the territory of the former Soviet Union, but this has so far been denied in deference to nationalist sensitivities in the other former Soviet republics.

Russian troops have, however, been involved in peacekeeping operations in former Yugoslavia.

Sergei Yushenkov, head of the Russian parliament's Defence Committee, said the Russian side had complained about what Moscow regarded as unfair practices that had excluded Russian companies from some foreign arms contracts.

Sen. Nunn said he would look into the charges.

## Indonesia stirs hornet's nest over Timor seminar

JAKARTA (R) — By prodigging the Philippines to ban foreigners from attending a conference on East Timor, Indonesia has unwittingly focused attention on the disputed territory, academics said Tuesday.

Until Jakarta's behind-the-scenes cajoling burst into the open this month, few outsiders knew or cared about the planned Manila meeting of Timorese activists and their supporters.

Now, however, news media from Manila to Dublin and Paris are following it closely.

"One month ago most Filipinos would not have heard of East Timor but now it is on everybody's topic of conversation," Geoffrey C. Gunn, an academic and author on East Timor, said by telephone from Australia.

Others said the issue had spread further afield, with media in Ireland carrying hourly reports of the deportation of Northern Irish peace laureate Mairead Maguire and Irish human rights activists Tom Hyland.

Manila, giving in to Indonesian pressure to prevent the conference from taking place, has barred foreigners from attending.

On Monday Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of French President Francois Mitterrand who was also blacklisted from attending the conference, accused Indonesia of "a kind of

blackmail" and putting tyrannical pressure on her not to attend.

Maria Barroso Soares, wife of Portugal's president, also cancelled plans to attend the Manila meeting and accused Indonesia of genocide in East Timor.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and has since faced a dwindling band of guerrillas and widespread resentment against its rule.

But the issue has continued to dog President Suharto's efforts to project himself and the world's fourth most populous country into a wider global role.

Officials said they were happy with the efforts of Manila, a neighbour and partner in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), but were awaiting a final outcome.

The Philippine Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that conference on human-rights abuses in East Timor could go ahead.

Officials at the University of the Philippines, where the meeting is being held, said they had also been promised that foreigners attending the conference would not be arrested on the campus.

"This is fantastic, a blow for Philippine democracy and a blow to the Suharto dictatorship," said Australian delegate Robert Smith, an agricultural scientist from Darwin.

## Woerner to miss NATO talks

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, struggling to recover from cancer, has told the allies he has no intention of quitting but cannot return to work until after the summer, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Mr. Woerner, 59, has written to the 16 NATO nations to say he could not attend a meeting of alliance foreign ministers in Istanbul next week. His doctors had advised him against it at what Mr. Woerner called a "critical phase of my recovery."

"This is a decision, in effect, to continue a short-term absence in order to ensure my long-term availability," Mr. Woerner wrote. The text of the letter was made available to Reuters.

"I wish however to assure you... that, based on the prognosis of my doctors, I shall return by the end of the summer holidays to resume my full responsibilities as the secretary-general of NATO," the letter said.

Mr. Woerner, who has been fighting a two-year battle against cancer of the colon and is now convalescing, missed a meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation defence ministers last week.

It was the first time he had been absent from a top-level NATO gathering since he fell ill — a fact leading to intense speculation that he might step down soon.

A former defence minister, Mr. Woerner has been widely credited with helping to pull the alliance through the end of the cold war and with pushing it into new missions such as peacekeeping in Europe in support of the United Nations.

Without his pugnacious style, many at NATO fear the alliance could lose direction at a time when it faces several highly sensitive issues.

Mr. Woerner wrote that he had been "wrestling" with the issue over whether to attend the Istanbul meeting, which includes talks between NATO and foreign ministers from Eastern European states and former Soviet republics.

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Two GI's carry a stretcher on wheels near a medical camp they have just set up on top of the hill at Omaha Beach in Normandy France. The medical service will welcome thousands of people visiting Normandy for the D-Day celebrations (AFP photo)

## Vietnam-era Bill Clinton confronts World War II on D-Day anniversary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Heading to Europe to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the allied invasion of France, President Bill Clinton is the first U.S. leader from a generation for whom the word "war" does not evoke the heroism of Normandy but the moral conflict of Vietnam.

This European tour — which begins Thursday in Italy and includes Britain and France — could turn out to be a political minefield for Clinton because of his uneasy relations with all things and people military.

The problem is not that Mr. Clinton is not a veteran.

Another non-combatant, former President Ronald Reagan, was reversed by the military establishment and brought tears to listeners' eyes in D-Day remarks on June 6, 1984 at Pointe du Hoc, France. But that was the 40th anniversary of the invasion.

The president for the 50th anniversary is a man who, while a student at Oxford, was one of many who protested the war in Vietnam and worked hard to avoid being drafted, including manoeuvring that some veterans continue to find suspicious.

The most damning evidence — which could have cost him the presidency in 1992 — is a letter that Mr. Clinton wrote in December 1969 thanking the officer in charge of the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Arkansas for "saving" him from the draft.

He also spoke of the fact that many young Americans had come to "loathe the military."

The months following Mr. Clinton's inauguration were marked by low-intensity conflict between the president and the military and its supporters.

Mr. Clinton got a cool reception in a February 1993 visit to an aircraft carrier, and scattered boos at a memorial to fallen U.S. troops in Vietnam during Memorial Day remarks last year.

The situation has improved since then but it is clear that Mr. Clinton is still out of his element when he goes — as he did Monday — to Arlington National Cemetery for this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

Soldiers do not give him the same respect as his predecessor George Bush, who fought in World War II.

"What can he say at Normandy, this man who loathed the military and avoided the draft?" asked Walter Berns, a Georgetown University professor of government and World War II veteran.

The White House says that Mr. Clinton is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and that the past is the past.

But Mr. Clinton is aware of the risks, and while he will make a sentimental trip to Oxford University, where he never finished his studies, to receive a doctor of law degree, the profile of that portion of his trip has been lowered.

"This in fact is a real degree the president is receiving, not an honorary degree," an administration official said.

Originally scheduled for Saturday, June 4 after a speech at an American Cemetery in Cambridge as part of D-Day recollections, Mr. Clinton's trip to Oxford was put off until Wednesday, June 8 and downgraded to a brief stop to avoid raising 25-year-old controversy.

While thousands jammed beaches across the United States, others spent Memorial

Day remembering another beach — Normandy — and paying tribute to those who fought and died there a half-century ago.

With the 50th anniversary of D-Day only days away, the invasion that ended World War II was a recurring topic of speeches, ceremonies and prayers on the day honouring America's war dead.

"When you think about what they did, flinging themselves out of boats and running into the enemy, it's really something," said Joseph Rossi of Pawtucket, R.I. "I think a lot of us take for granted what our fathers, grandfathers did. It's very humbling."

Mr. Rossi, 35, one of about 500 people gathered at Rhode Island Veterans' Cemetery, said he didn't know anyone buried there, but had been touched by film footage of D-Day that he had recently seen.

President Clinton, born two years after D-Day, met with leaders of 20 veterans organisations and 73 World War II veterans at the White House, then placed a wreath at the Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns.

D-Day veterans also were remembered in a ceremony at Veterans Affairs Hospital in Fayetteville, N.C., as were more recent military casualties: The 23 Fort Bragg soldiers killed in March in a plane crash at nearby Pope Air Force Base.

In some places, however, memories were short.

The American Legion in New York City replaced its 73-year-old march up Broadway with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument because of dwindling interest.

## Cambodia premier predicts more fighting

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's prime minister Tuesday predicted renewed fighting between the army and the Khmer Rouge after blaming the guerrillas for the failure of weekend peace talks in North Korea.

Asked if war would now follow, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh told reporters at the airport on his return: "I'm very sorry to talk about fighting but it is clear the way chosen by Mr. Pol Pot is this way."

"It is the sacred duty of the royal government to provide security to the Cambodian people and to put an end to the secession of territory."

"I think the royal government does not have any choice but to fight the Khmer Rouge with or without assistance from friendly countries," said Prince Ranariddh.

The Khmer Rouge, who control about 10 per cent of Cambodia and beat the army in two major battles this year, say their former leader Pol Pot is retired. Prince Ranariddh, his father King Sihanouk and

many other government leaders believe he is still in overall control of the Maoist-inspired rebels.

Peace talks ended abruptly in Pyongyang Saturday with no sign of a breakthrough but with agreement to hold a fresh meeting in Phnom Penh on June 15.

King Sihanouk, in a radio broadcast from Pyongyang heard in Phnom Penh Tuesday, said he had "run out of initiatives" for reconciliation and would not chair the talks.

He said Chakrey Nhek Tioulong, a royal adviser, would take his place.

A visibly angry Prince Ranariddh said the door was still open for talks but prospects for further meaningful dialogue were slim.

"I feel very sad for my country that we have lost the opportunity of resolving the problem through peaceful means."

He accused nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan of renegeing four times a request by King Sihanouk for a ceasefire also starting on June 15.

Prince Ranariddh said similar

pleas from the country's most revered Buddhist leader Samdech Preah Maha Ghosanda, who organised a recent peace march, also fell on deaf ears.

"I have one thing to ask the world community — the sponsors of the Paris peace agreement. It's clear that the Khmer Rouge do not want to resolve the remaining problem through peaceful means," Prince Ranariddh said.

"Would they (world community) accept Mr. Pol Pot to come back and destroy the liberal democracy they want to establish in Cambodia?"

A 22,000-strong United Nations force deployed in Cambodia after the 1991 Paris pact, which the Khmer Rouge signed. The guerrillas boycotted free elections in May 1993 and are waging a sporadic war to back demands for what they call an "advisory" role in government.

The army captured the Khmer Rouge strongholds at Anlong Veng and Pailin in a big offensive this spring but were later driven out of both.

## Many Americans drop the 'o' from Jackie

BOSTON (AP) — Images from the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis filled television screens for hours in the days after her death, from her glamorous wedding to JFK to her trips to the ballet with a diamond merchant who had become her companion. But where was her second husband, the late Aristotle Onassis? He was hardly mentioned. Kennedy watchers say it is a powerful indication that Americans even now want their myth of Camelot the way they envisioned it so long ago. "It's almost as if they were never married," said Bruce Schulman, professor of American history at Boston University. "People don't want to remember her as Ari Onassis' wife. We want to remember her only as Kennedy's widow." Mrs. Kennedy's image suffered in 1968 when she married Onassis, an aging jet-setting Greek shipping tycoon. Americans might have balked at JFK's widow remarrying at all, but Onassis seemed a particularly unacceptable choice. "Jackie: How could you?" one newspaper headline screamed. He was swaggering, swarthy and, worst of all, southern European, said Kennedy chronicler Peter Collier. "Marrying a northern European would have preserved her icy chastity," he said. "But in the mythic iconography, it was almost like she was being ravaged by a satyr." National Enquirer editor Brian Williams agreed that Americans were horrified by the nuptials. "People read the story of that marriage like a train wreck," he said. "They didn't want to look, but they couldn't help themselves." Collier, who co-authored the book *The Kennedys: An American Drama*, said the incongruous, unbelievable nature of the match made it easier for Americans to brush it aside, as if it never happened. Indeed, most media coverage of her death made only cursory reference to the seven-year marriage, which was, by most accounts, unhappy. He continued his affair with opera singer Maria Callas. She was seen with other escorts. Divorce plans were rumoured until his death in 1975. Last Monday, the day of her funeral, ABC news anchor Peter Jennings announced that henceforth, he would refer to the woman once known as "Jackie O" as Jackie Kennedy.

## A Year In Provence becomes a hit in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — The British writer Peter Mayle's best-selling essay *A Year In Provence*, which describes peaceful rural life in southern France has become one of the biggest hits in Japanese bookstores. Some 520,000 copies have been sold in Japan since it was published last year. The essay is based on the author's experience enjoying a pleasant life with nature and friends in Provence after quitting his advertising agency job in London. "The easy-going lifestyle in Provence attracts many Japanese people, particularly among hard-working businessmen whose life is far from the one described in Provence," said an official of Kawade Shobo Shinsha, which published the Japanese edition of the book. The success of the book also prompted a Japanese travel agency to organise special tours in Provence, offering its clients "a real experience. More than 160 people, mostly women, already signed up for these tours. For about \$5,000, they will visit shops, restaurants and have a look at the author's house in Provence," a travel agency spokesman said. The author was in Japan last month to promote his essay. A series based on the book was also shown on Japanese television.

## First in France — do-it-yourself dog laundry

LYON, France (AFP) — France, which gave the world the "French" poodle, is now offering a way to keep it trim and clean — cheaply. An entrepreneur in this central city responded to what he called a "real need" in recession-hit France by opening the country's first do-it-yourself grooming salon for canines — a "lav-dog." Though Paul Bridet cannot claim credit for the idea, which he said was imported from the United States, his month-old salon has caught on quickly in a country keen on high fashion and whose sidewalks attest to the abundance of dogs. It can now cost up to 600 francs (more than \$100) in France to drop a dog off for grooming at a traditional shop.

## Shrinking star 'may revise' theory on black hole formation

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A gigantic, exceptionally bright star that scientists thought could become a black hole is actually shedding mass at such an astonishing rate that it eventually will disappear, a discovery that casts doubt on theories of stellar evolution, a researcher reports.

Sally Heap, a NASA astronomer, said the star is boiling away mass equal to about 20 suns every 1 million years and will end its life as an empty shell.

"If such massive stars are losing mass at such a prodigious rate, they will not form black holes, but will peel off to virtually nothing," Ms. Heap said at a national meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

The star, located 169,000 light years away in the large Magellanic cloud, is now about the size of 60 suns.

"This is about eight times faster than theory would predict," she said. Current theory is that a star 10 times larger than the Earth's sun would eventually exhaust its nuclear fuel and collapse into a black hole, an object so dense that its powerful gravitational field permits nothing to escape, not even light.

But Ms. Heap said that new photographs, captured with the repaired Hubble space telescope, show that may not be the case.

"It's not the matter that you start with the leads to a black hole, but rather the matter you have left at the end," she said.

Jay S. Gallagher, a University of Wisconsin astronomer, said Ms. Heap's theory may lead to a reevaluation of fundamental beliefs about stellar

evolution and the size range of stars that do eventually become black holes.

Stars are thought to form when a cloud of interstellar matter collects and condenses. It attracts more matter until its mass becomes large enough to create an internal gravitation pressure great enough to ignite the thermonuclear conversion of hydrogen to helium.

Eventually, the hydrogen is burned away and a new phase begins. Massive stars are thought to explode into a supernova, then collapse.

In the life course of stars, all of the elements are formed, including metals. Ms. Heap said this may explain why the star she studied is losing so much mass.

The star is only about 3 million years old, she said, and is exceptionally bright, burning at 7 to 8 times hotter than the sun.

Because the outer shell of the star contains metals and is opaque, light cannot pass through it freely. The force of the light pushing against the opaque shell is enough to cause a gigantic outflow of material from the shell, Ms. Heap said.







## U.N. council issues 11th hour warning to N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has issued an 11th hour warning to North Korea to cooperate with international nuclear inspectors before it considers further measures, including economic sanctions.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) broke off talks with North Korea Friday after Pyongyang refused proper access of fuel rods to determine if materials were diverted to a clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

The Council, at an emergency late Monday meeting called by the United States, "strongly" urged North Korea to comply with IAEA demands and expressed fears that Pyongyang was making it impossible to determine the history of its nuclear reactor.

The United States suspects North Korea has reprocessed fuel rods into bomb-grade plutonium during the last refueling of the reactor in 1989, when IAEA inspectors were not present.

All 15 Council members, including China, approved a policy statement that also asked the IAEA to keep its two inspectors in North Korea and attempt to negotiate again.

The statement contained a veiled threat of further action by saying the Council would consider the controversy again in order to achieve "full implementation," but it did not directly refer to sanctions or any other measures.

In Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa said North Korea had already replaced 4,800 of the 8,000 fuel rods. "This means that the next two days or thereabouts will be crucial," he told a news conference.

If North Korea does not

comply, Council members say the next step is an official report from the IAEA saying it cannot guarantee that Pyongyang has complied with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty it signed.

After the report, several Council members are expected to push for economic sanctions, in hopes China will not block such a move.

China, an ally of North Korea, can use its veto power to kill any resolution on sanctions. Or Beijing, which is opposed to all sanctions on principle, could abstain and let a resolution pass. "We are in a man's land, in uncharted territory," said one Council envoy.

North Korea has denied it was building a bomb but its envoys late Monday remained defiant.

Kim Su Man, the deputy U.N. ambassador, said Pyongyang "resolutely" rejected the Council's statement as another attempt by the United States "to stifle my country."

He told reporters all problems should be solved in negotiations with the United States and the IAEA and not through pressure by the Security Council.

The IAEA has given North Korea two choices: To shut down the reactor or to label under supervision about 300 specific spent fuel rods the nuclear watchdog agency needs to measure the history of the reactor's core.

South Korea warned North Korea Tuesday it faced confrontation with the entire world, as emergency meetings were held in Tokyo and Seoul to discuss possible sanctions against the isolated regime. "North Korea should recognise the unfortunate fact that it is inviting confrontation with

the entire world community," by ignoring calls for nuclear transparency, the South's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We therefore warn North Korea not to waste time," the statement said. It urged North Korea to immediately suspend its refuelling operations and comply with all safeguard measures required by the IAEA.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo separately hinted that Seoul could seek sanctions against Pyongyang outside the U.N. framework if China used its veto right in favour of the North.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata chaired a National Security Council meeting to discuss the nuclear crisis.

Japan's foreign minister, Koji Kakizawa, warned that the world would be in a "critical phase" in the next two days because North Korea had already removed about 60 per cent of 8,000 rods, Jiji press said.

Japan may set a block on bank transfers and exports to North Korea if the U.N. Security Council decides on sanctions against North Korea, it said.

Hours before the U.N. Security Council issued a new condemnation of North Korea's nuclear policy, the presidents of the United States and South Korea agreed during a telephone conversation to face the nuclear issue squarely, the presidential office here said.

"If (dialogue) efforts turn out to be fruitless, sanctions against the North would be unavoidable," South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was quoted as saying.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said that although the U.N. statement stopped short of

threatening sanctions, it carried significant weight because it urged Pyongyang to abide its obligations related to nuclear safeguards for a negotiated settlement.

The two leaders agreed that the nuclear issue had reached a "very dangerous point" and decided to remain in touch during their upcoming overseas trips, Mr. Kim's office said.

On the eve of Mr. Kim's week-long state visit to Russia, South Korea put its entire armed forces and police on "heightened" alert Tuesday, ordering all field commanders to stay within reach of military communications networks 24 hours a day.

France said Tuesday it supported sanctions against North Korea if it continues refusing to submit to nuclear control checks.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Dugue said Paris hailed the U.N. Security Council's unanimous adoption of the declaration urging North Korea to allow all full international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Meanwhile North Korean troops Monday removed their equipment from the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) hall in the border town of Panmunjom, South Korean Defence Ministry officials said Tuesday.

The border guards stripped microphones and speakers from their side of the hall, which has been used to supervise the truce between the two Koreas since the MAC was signed after the devastating 1950-53 Korean War, they said.

North Korea unilaterally pulled its MAC representatives out of Panmunjom in late April saying the MAC should be replaced by a peace treaty.



Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (left) sits beside the new vice-president of the Muslim-Croatia federation parliament, Ejup Ganic (center). On the right is Kresimir Zubak, leader of the Bosnian-Croat population, who was elected the new president of the federation governing body (AFP photo)

## New Bosnian federation leaders elected

SARAJEVO (R) — The Bosnian parliament voted unanimously Tuesday to appoint a Croat president and a Muslim vice-president to lead the new Muslim-Croat federation being set up in the former Yugoslav republic.

Kresimir Zubak, 46, leader of the Bosnian Croats, was elected president of the federation and Ejup Ganic, 48, a member of the Bosnian presidency, was elected vice-president.

The vote was taken at a special constitutional session of the Bosnian parliament convened in Sarajevo to stitch together the new Muslim-Croat federation.

The success of the federation depends to a large extent on the Bosnian Serbs, who are being pressed to pull back from a large part of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they hold. They do not intend to join the federation.

International mediators are proposing a formula that would give the Serbs 49 per cent of the territory and the Muslim-Croat federation 51 per cent.

Mr. Zubak, leader of the breakaway region of Herzegovina, replaces Alija Izetbegovic, who was served throughout the war, as president.

Mr. Zubak and Mr. Ganic are expected to serve for about six months until local and national elections are held.

Muslims and Croats began Bosnia's 25-month war as allies against rebel Serb forces. The alliance crumbled in 1993 and the war became a three-sided scramble for territory.

Diplomatic pressure from the United States led Bosnian Muslims and Croats to agree in Vienna last month on a loose federal realignment around eight ethnically based cantons.

Parliament began meeting Monday to ratify the Vienna agreement and make the constitutional changes and appointments necessary to implement the accord.

There was little drama surrounding the election of Mr. Zubak and Mr. Ganic because political agreement on the move had already been reached between Bosnia's two major political parties — the Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ).

As part of efforts to keep Bosnia's stumbling peace process going, United Nations special envoy Yasushi Akashi has called on the warring factions to attend a conference in Geneva on June 2 and 3 to discuss a four-month, country-wide ceasefire.

Mr. Izetbegovic has threatened to boycott the talks unless the Serbs withdraw from a U.N.-mandated exclusion zone around the eastern Muslim town of Gorazde.

Mr. Izetbegovic's threat, made as he entered the initial session of parliament Monday, prompted an angry reaction from Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Shadbolt of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo, who said U.N. peacekeeping troops could not be expected to remain in Bosnia forever.

"If there comes a time when

we are creating conditions for peace and the parties are not fully exploiting that opportunity we may have to find some place else in the world to spend \$1.5 billion a year where it will be appreciated," he told Reuters.

Col. Shadbolt is military assistant to Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia.

The United Nations halted a Serb offensive on Gorazde in April and banned Serb troops from a three-kilometre zone around the town centre. But UNPROFOR says about 150 Serb soldiers, now wearing police uniforms, are still in the area.

The United Nations meanwhile said Bosnian Serb forces had taken a heavy artillery gun from a U.N. weapons collection point near Sarajevo.

The incident Monday marked a further erosion of a 20-kilometre U.N. heavy weapons exclusion zone around the capital.

"The BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) took a 105mm artillery gun out of the weapons collection point at Krivoljaci," UNPROFOR spokesman Major Rob Annink told a news briefing Tuesday.

The 20-kilometre zone was established in February when Serbs besieging the city pulled back their guns under pressure from Russia and from NATO, which threatened air strikes.

Since then there has been a steady erosion of the zone, with several Serb tanks and artillery guns at large in the area, out of control of the United Nations.

## Kurdish leaders welcome truce accord

DAMASCUS (R) — Iraqi Kurdish leaders welcomed Tuesday an agreement they say will put an end to a bloody confrontation between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), described the agreement reached in Turkey as one "not only to put an end to fighting but to return things to normal."

A spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, said the agreement signed by PUK and KDP leaders in the border town of Silopi Monday was holding.

"We hope that all differences will be solved through dialogue," he added.

Several previous ceasefire agreements have failed to halt fighting, which has claimed several hundred lives in parts of northern Iraq.

A U.N. official in Baghdad said Monday that fighting had spread in Irbil, the regional capital and seat of a Kurdish parliament for the first time since the clashes began on May 1.

Northern Iraq has been under the protection of West-

ern allies since the Gulf war and the PUK and KDP have shared control of the area since Iraq's defeat in 1991.

Turkish-based planes of a U.S.-led coalition patrol northern Iraq to deter attacks by the Baghdad government.

Mr. Talabani said he was returning to northern Iraq within the next two days through Turkey and that he would meet with Mr. Barzani "to reinforce the agreement."

The PUK leader, who has been in Syria since the latest flareup, told Reuters he had been unable to go back to northern Iraq earlier because security was not guaranteed.

"The situation now is different," he added.

Mr. Talabani said the Kurdish regional government should remain in power but hinted some ministers should be changed and portfolios given to Arabs.

A serious reconsideration of the whole working programme in the area should be conducted by the PUK, the KDP and the Iraqi National Congress to adopt a new policy that would reinforce stability and democracy," he added.

Mr. Talabani said there was no need to rush for new elec-

tions as polls would be held in July, 1995. The coming months will be "a test for all to see how they are reacting to the new situation," he said.

He spoke favourably of the role played by Syria and Turkey in recent events and said they "were good mediators who wanted to put an end to fighting."

But he accused Iran of "interfering to support the revolutionary Hizbollah Party and the Islamic Movement in Iraq Kurdistan."

He said he understood Turkish sensitivities about Kurdish relations with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is seeking a separate state in eastern Turkey, but said Turkey should not fear these ties.

"It is natural that our Turkish friends are sensitive about any relationship between the PKK and the Iraqi movement. We understand this but since the PKK is not interfering in the internal affairs there should be no Turkish fear," he said.

More than 11,800 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK began its armed struggle for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast.

## Democratic process could be reversed, political activists warn

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The democratic process in Jordan, a major stride in the history of the country and the region, is no more than a political overturn that is likely to be reversed, according to Jordanian specialists.

"The status quo is a transitory state between pre-democracy and democracy, but saying in the same place for a long time is equivalent to a reversal (to the original status)," said Jamil Al Nimri, former chief editor of the opposition weekly Al Ahali newspaper.

The presence of the old authority apparatus in power means the collapse of the democratic regime. "In a conference entitled the Jordanian Democratic Path, organised jointly by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre and Friedrich Ebert Foundation and held at the Forte Grand hotel, Mr. Al Nimri said that enormous restrictions were introduced by the laws enacted after the introduction of democracy in 1989 and they can only negatively influence the progress of democracy in the Jordanian society. These laws, he said, include the political parties law, the press and publications law, the defence law, the state security courts law and the elections law. He said they include articles that can be used by the government to restrict freedoms.

Mr. Nimri, who is a mem-

ber of the leftist party Hashd, said the press and publications law "was used to file numerous cases against newspapers for publishing articles that were meant to enhance freedoms of expression."

"Those negative developments had decreased the people's interest in democracy and weakened the party life in the country which is not in favour of social and democratic growth," Mr. Nimri said. The president of the Writers Association, Mu'nis Razzaz, said one of the most important factors influencing the "relative Jordanian democratic openness" is the developments in the Palestinian issue.

He said that Jordan's envisioned role in the process had hastened the introduction of democracy. Mr. Razzaz, Jordan's leading novelist and a leading columnist, pointed to several other factors that he considered crucial to the enhancement of democracy in Jordan. First, the failure of political parties in assuming a leading role in the Jordanian political life; setbacks that influenced the democratic march "that the country was not able to overcome were it not for the intervention of the King personally"; the lack of participation of the intelligentsia in the civil society organisations such as Centre for the Study of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World.

"And perhaps the recent dramatic developments of the Palestinian issue can be considered as key factors leading to this reversal," he concluded.

Participants in the three-day conference sought to determine whether April 1987 riots were behind the introduction of democracy or not. Most said they feared a setback.

"More than four decades have passed since the promulgation of the Constitution, and, during this period, the Jordanian society had developed politically, socially and economically that it became necessary to amend and introduce changes to certain articles," Suleiman Sweiss said during the evening session.

Dr. Sweiss, a prominent human rights advocate, cited the election Law, prisons law, the press and publications law and the labour law as legislations that include articles that contradict human rights principles, and, therefore, should be amended.

"Official statements regarding human rights and democracy are almost close to slogans... what we direly need is serious and pragmatic steps and political will to translate official commitment to human rights into a reality," he added.

According to Dr. Sweiss, a national strategy should be adopted to enhance and develop human rights causes.

Such a strategy, he said, "should include the appointment of a national commissioner to protect human rights; official response to complaints filed by human rights organisations; the introduction of human rights principles in the school curriculum; the establishment of centres for enhancing democracy and human rights; and drafting a comprehensive plan for legal reform in order to revise laws and legislations in conformity with human rights principles and conventions."

Musa Kilani, chief editor of Al Dustour newspaper, believes that the democratic process is going to be slow but steady. While pointing to several factors that hamper the enhancement of the democratisation process that he thought were beyond the government control, Dr. Kilani also criticised government hegemony over the media.

"The most powerful weapon the government uses in its control of the radio and television and the Jordan news agency (Petra), which are all promoting the government's achievements and its decisions," Dr. Kilani said.

"As for those newspapers that oppose the government's policies, the government resorts to old laws to punish them," he added. "It would be sufficient to know that there are currently 50 cases filed against newspapers."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UAE expects Iran to quit islands

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) wants good ties with Iran and expects it to quit three disputed islands that have soured Tehran's relations with its Gulf neighbours, a senior UAE official was quoted Tuesday as saying. But Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Abu Dhabi crown prince, said there was no contact now between the two countries over the strategic islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. "We hope Iran will respond to a call by President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan for a dialogue or we will resort to the International Court of Justice so each will present his own evidence," he said in an interview with the Saudi magazine Al Yamama to be published Wednesday. "We have great hopes Iran will return on the basis of respect of neighbours' rights." Iran and the UAE held negotiations over the dispute in September 1992 but they collapsed three days later after Iran refused to discuss the Tunbs on the ground they belong to it.

### S. Africa rejoins Commonwealth

LONDON (AFP) — South Africa will rejoin the Commonwealth Wednesday after a 33-year absence resulting from the racist apartheid regime that was wiped out with last month's first free elections. Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku said

Tuesday. He told a press conference at Commonwealth headquarters here that the return followed "the end of apartheid and the dawn of freedom in South Africa." The return of a non-racial democratic South Africa, working alongside the other 50 members of the Commonwealth, is a boost for the association, not least in the task of making the world safer for diversity," said Mr. Anyaoku. South Africa dropped out of the Commonwealth by default in 1961, the year it ended its constitutional monarchy headed by Britain's Queen Elizabeth, and became a republic. At that stage, according to Commonwealth rules, it would have had to reapply for admission as a republic and, faced with clear reports that such an application would be rejected because of apartheid, it chose not to apply.

### Some 600 Iraqi Kurds flee to Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — At least 600 Kurdish families have crossed the border into Iran in recent days to flee fighting among rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. Resalat newspaper said here Tuesday. The paper said most of the refugees were from the northeastern cities of Khurmali and Halabja near the Iranian border. Tehran Radio said Monday that fighting has intensified between the two major factions in northern Iraq — the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) — in the regions of Arbil, Osleli-Dizel, Suleimaniyah, Haj-Omran and Halabja. Thousands of Kurds fled their homes, it said.

### Amnesty: Moroccan rights abuses continue

RABAT (R) — Morocco has taken no action to end the practice of political imprisonment one year after the authorities said they would redress human rights abuses, Amnesty International said Tuesday.

"If human rights are to become a reality in Morocco, the authorities must take concrete steps to translate words into action," the London-based rights group said in a statement faxed to Reuters.

"As long as the pattern of political imprisonment and the legacy of past injustices is allowed to go on, Moroccan protestations of a new respect for human rights remain shallow," the statement said.

In a report published in London Tuesday, Amnesty said government critics and peaceful demonstrators, including

human rights activists, trade unionists and others, continued to be arrested and detained.

It said "more than 130 prisoners of conscience and hundreds of political prisoners convicted in trials which were travesties of justice remain imprisoned in Morocco."

"Many of these prisoners have spent over ten years in prison, yet they never should have been detained, not even for a single day," it added.

The Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH), one of four rights groups in Morocco, said last Friday three Berber teachers were jailed for between one and two years after taking part in a May Day parade in the eastern town of Rashidia.

Lawyers said the three, who were members of a Berber

Cultural Association, were arrested after chanting slogans calling for the Berber language, Tamazight, to be made an official language alongside Arabic.

Amnesty said the official Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCDH) appointed by King Hassan had given assurances that rights abuses would be rectified when an Amnesty delegation visited Morocco a year ago.

"However, no action has been taken to address the specific cases of the hundreds of prisoners who are unjustly held and whose cases Amnesty International has previously raised with the CCDH, the minister of human rights and other authorities in the Moroccan government," the statement said.

## COLUMN

### Help, police, that copper's a fake

BEIJING (R) — China announced Tuesday a new drive against criminals who impersonate police, promising punishment for the makers of fake uniforms and insignia. "A nationwide campaign will be launched in July to punish illegal producers and traders," the Public Security Ministry said in a decree reported by the official China Daily. "All those who wear fake police uniforms and uniform markings and cheat people in the name of the 'police' will face severe penalties," the decree said. The ministry said the practice "damaged the image" of police. The edict indicates the failure of previous campaigns in which officials have closed 98 fake uniform factories and 2,200 outlets at which police paraphernalia was sold. Authorities have confiscated 58,000 counterfeit police uniforms, 7,230 fake police caps and nearly 40,000 sets of insignia and uniform markings, the report said.

### Canada ranks first in human development — U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Canada ranks first among industrialised countries for life expectancy, education and buying power in this year's U.N. index of human development, according to a report published Wednesday. Barbados led developing countries in the Human Development Index which tracked progress in 173 countries, according to the U.N. Development Programme's (UNDP) study. A new measure which follows the index over a longer period — from 1960 to 1992 — showed Malaysia and Botswana with the most progress followed by South Korea, Tunisia and Thailand. East Asia had the fastest growing economies, according to the report, which stressed the need for addressing social needs when planning development strategies. "This shows that the fast pace of economic growth in East Asia was built on a solid foundation of human development," said the report, entitled Human Development 1994. The researchers called for new approaches to planning and spending worldwide and proposed a world social development summit in Copenhagen in March 1995. "It will be a time to reiterate very clearly that, without the promotion of people-centered development, none of our key objectives can be met — not peace, not human rights, not environmental protection," said James Speth who directed the study.

### Thai sweatshop raid frees 32 girls

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai police who raided a sweatshop in a Bangkok suburb found 32 women and girls held prisoner, some of whom said they had been locked away for four years, an investigative officer said Tuesday. Nine Thai and 23 ethnic Karen girls, ranging in age from 14 to 35, told police they had been made to work 16 hours a day sewing jeans in the remote district of Chom Thong for no pay, the officer said. The women and girls were found Monday. Their mail had been screened while they were kept behind steel doors and thick window bars, and they were dependent on their two elderly work supervisors for meals, he said. Police were alerted by one worker, an 18-year-old Thai who managed to squeeze through the window bars of the four-storey factor and shimmy down a drain pipe, he said. Shop workers told police they had been promised 500 baht (\$20) a month to make clothing, but found after their arrival that they would receive no pay. Some told police they had been held captive for as long as four years and had been allowed outside only when the factory's location was changed to avoid detection. Police arrested the two Thais who supervised the shop, the officer said. They have been charged with illegal detention of workers, hiring child labour, and importing and sheltering illegal aliens. The pair face a maximum combined sentence of eight years and a 20,000 baht (\$800) fine for each count. Most of the girls were being sheltered at the Thai government's Public Welfare Department while others had returned home, the officer said.